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# Saipan Tribune

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**NATION**



A 58-year-old Utah woman is set to give birth—to her first grandchild.

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**LIFE & STYLE**



Sandra Bullock reigns supreme at the 40th annual People's Choice Awards.

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**System upgrades delay installation of prepaid electric meters. PAGE 7**  
**Renovation of Garapan fish market building underway. PAGE 18**

## Hero's welcome for 15 soldiers

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**"I**t's good to be home," 21-year-old U.S. Army SPC Rita Taitano said, still trying to catch her breath amid an outpouring of welcome hugs, kisses, handshakes, cheers, and tears of joy at yesterday morning's welcoming at the Saipan International Airport for 15 of 16 CNMI soldiers who had just returned from their Afghanistan deployment.

Like the 14 others who arrived yesterday, Taitano was overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who welcomed them inside and outside the airport, as well as along the road to and from the airport.

It was especially heartwarming for SPC Christopher Del Rosario, seeing for

**See SOLDIERS on Page 4**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Army SPC Ivan Igitol gets a welcome hug from Department of Public Lands director for Real Estate Division Rachel Roque upon arrival at the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning of 15 of 16 CNMI soldiers who recently returned from their Afghanistan deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Welcome hugs, kisses, cheers, tears of joy, banners, flags, and yellow ribbons greeted the returning soldiers, who were among the 600 from the Guam National Guard that underwent training and deployment for almost a year.

**See more photos on Pages 16 and 17**

## Extension looms for tax amnesty

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the tax amnesty that ran for only about three weeks until it expired on Jan. 2 is on its way to being extended, and House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) is now drafting an amendment bill.

Sablan, author of the revenue-generating bill that became law, said the three-week window for the just concluded tax amnesty program was "too short" to be able to prepare and submit all required tax documents and other papers to support the application.

He said the proposed extension could be for "two to three months."

"We don't want to cut it short because doing so will defeat the purpose of extending it," Sablan said.

**See TAX on Page 4**

## 'CNMI snake free since 2001'

So far so good for the Brown Tree Snake Program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, as none of the invasive reptile species has been found alive in the CNMI since 2001.

This was according to BTS Program supervisor Marja K. Onni during

Wednesday's turnover of \$100 check prize to Vicenta S. Lacanlale, who found the program's missing 12-year-old snake detector dog "Maddy" last Dec. 20.

"The last 10 years have been pretty quiet. Between 1990 and 2001 we caught 11 brown tree snakes. One was caught

on Rota in 2009 but it was already dead. That was the last one. The last [snake] found on Saipan was 2001 and it was found on an airplane."

Onni said it's a tribute to the local BTS Program that so far no snakes have reached the shores of the CNMI since the last live one was caught in 2001.

"We caught a lot in the early 1990s because we didn't have enough inspectors. Now we have 15 K-9 teams. I think Guam is also checking very well [their airplanes and boats] these days and we don't see them coming in anymore. I think it is very effective in the CNMI. All flights from Guam are carefully inspected for brown tree snakes that may have stowed away. K-9 teams check and double-check them."

Onni said it also helps that the Commonwealth Ports Authority has set up a holding area for high-risk cargo that acts

**See SNAKE on Page 4**



MARK RABAGO

Brown Tree Snake Program supervisor Marja K. Onni is within arm's reach of two canisters that contain two brown tree snakes the program uses for demonstration and training purposes.



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## Local

### Zoning pushes bill to address abandoned Saipan properties

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Zoning Office is seeing an abundance of abandoned and dilapidated properties on Saipan that have become eyesores that not only blight villages but also devalue many adjacent properties.

Zoning administrator Therese Ogomoro said it's high time that lawmakers act on the problem by getting their act together to pass a bill that would rectify this long-time concern.

It was in June last year when Ogomoro began to press for the passage of House Bill 18-71, the "Nuisance Abatement and Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013." The legislation remains pending at a House committee for review.

"The [Zoning] Board and I hope the House passes this bill very soon to finally address the ongoing problem of abandoned and dilapidated properties for the interest of our islands. This concern has been ongoing but nothing was ever done to deal with it. This bill will assist greatly in resolving such concerns on these buildings and also in holding those companies and individuals having an interest in these properties to be responsible to either improve or remove them," said Ogomoro.

Without this legislation, the number of these eyesores will continue to grow, she added.

According to Ogomoro, the bill addresses in detail the Zoning Office's intention to address vacant and abandoned properties, with further clarification on the maintenance of these properties and enforcement procedures.

In its comment on the bill, Zoning believes it should get

much of the revenue from fines and penalties from the proposed law in order to allow the office to abate public nuisances and implement the Act effectively.

"Zoning assisted the author in coming up with the bill. In my recent conversation with the author of the bill [Rep. Deleon Guerrero] and the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee [Rep. Tony Benavente] this past Tuesday, they indicated that they're determined to act on the bill as soon as they can within this month," Ogomoro said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the House entertained the bill after August 2013 but delegation members deferred acting on it due to concerns raised by Rota and Tinian representatives. Rota and Tinian House members wanted to clarify whether the Act will be effective on their islands since the zoning law only has jurisdiction on Saipan.

The bill went back to committee for further review.

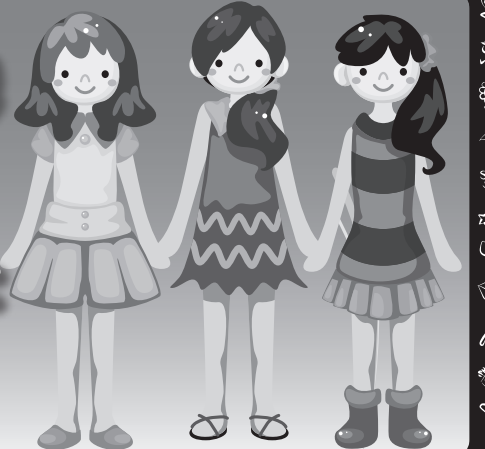
According to Ogomoro, once enacted, the law can be applicable to all islands, unless separate zoning laws are enacted by other senatorial districts.

"The Commonwealth Code established the Zoning Board and Office and therefore this proposed Act can be applicable Commonwealth-wide, except that each of the island districts must pass its own zoning law if they decide to do so, just as the Saipan legislative delegation passed its own Saipan zoning law. Nevertheless, Rota and Tinian can choose to either exclude themselves from this Act or be included in it (under which case zoning branches can be established on both islands)," she added.

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# DEQ, CRM merger goes through

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' executive order merging the Division of Environmental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management Office will take effect on Sunday as planned, after the House referred back the EO to committee for review yesterday afternoon and the Senate is not holding a session until Tuesday.

The governor's reorganization plan, which he signed on Nov. 12, becomes effective 60 days after submission to the Legislature, unless a majority of the members of the House and Senate specifically modify or disapprove it.

The House did not vote to reject or modify the EO yesterday afternoon; instead it approved a motion to refer it back to Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee for review.

Leon Guerrero, during the session, said when the JGO panel was reviewing the EO and preparing the recommendation to reject it, there were no assurances or formal communication from federal grantors National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stating that the CNMI risks losing money if DEQ and CRM merge.

"In light of new discovery and during the latest meeting with the agencies [DEQ and CRM], EPA and NOAA assured there's no federal funding loss and they will assist in retaining this funding," Leon Guerrero said.

At 3:12pm, the House approved a motion to refer back the governor's EO to JGO Committee.

The House's decision not to reject or amend the EO yesterday, plus the Senate's lack of session before Jan. 12, essentially allows the merger to go through.

But some lawmakers, including Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), said DEQ and CRM, as well as the administration, still have to address outstanding concerns raised during a series of meetings with the

*See DEQ on Next Page*

## Update sought on status of settlement fund

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The federal court has ordered Guam-based Civile & Tang law firm, through its principal representative, attorney Joyce C. H. Tang, to give an update on the status of the settlement fund that was created under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

In an order Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood directed Tang to make her presentation in court on Monday, Jan. 13, at 9am.

The court appointed Tang as settlement fund trustee last September. As trustee, Tang is vested with all the powers of a federal receiver.

Tang shall serve as trustee for as long as necessary to implement the settlement agreement, or until she asks to be relieved and the request is approved by the court.

At the Jan. 13 hearing, Tydingco-Gatewood said the court will also hear the CNMI government's report on its compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement.

In a report submitted Monday in court, government lawyer Reena J. Patel said the CNMI

government has complied with the terms of the settlement agreement, including the timely payment of \$3.75 million in annual contributions for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014.

The other agenda at the Jan. 13 hearing will be the petitions for attorneys' fees and costs filed by different lawyers who served as counsels for Johnson.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the court will hear arguments on the petitions filed by the Hawaii-based Bronster Hoshibata law firm, Bruce Jorgensen, Stephen Woodruff, and Timothy Lord.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Bronster Hoshibata to explain the law firm's other request for reimbursement for a tax on fees totaling \$48,349.88 and a tax on costs in the amount of \$37.62.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the law firm's request does not indicate how these taxes were computed and also does not provide any legal authority to justify reimbursement of such taxes.

The CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, has strongly opposed the requests for attorneys' fees and costs filed by Johnson's many lawyers, describing them as "excessive, outrageous, and contained irregularities."

In his first petition, Jorgensen is demanding \$18.6 million, \$29 million or \$38.9 million; Bronster Hoshibata is seeking \$17.5 million; Lord is asking for either \$3.6 million or \$5.9 million; and Woodruff asked first for \$1.01 million and now \$2.9 million.

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# Bill on settlement of judgments now heads to governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A Senate bill authorizing the governor to negotiate a settlement and resolution of judgments against the CNMI government is now on its way to Gov. Eloy S. Inos after the House passed it without amendment or any discussion. The government has at least \$27 million in unpaid judgments and the oldest among at least 17 existing judgment is over 10 years old.

Such settlement, under the bill, may include offsets and credits on any tax obligation or other obligations of claimants, members of their family or third parties who may have such ob-

ligations and payments of cash from the CNMI general fund or other funds set aside for payment of judgments.

These include all other settlement methods authorized by law other than cash, as agreed by the parties.

This judgment settlement bill was among the four bills passed and one measure rejected during the House's session yesterday afternoon.

By a vote of 18-2, Senate vice president Victor Hocog's (R-Rota) Senate Bill 18-26 passed the House at 3:50pm.

The two "no" votes were from Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) and Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan).

Tebuteb's objections to the bill include concerns that it

gives away too much power to the governor and may become more political to benefit certain individuals, groups, or business rather than actually assisting in judgments. He said the governor already has the power to negotiate.

An identical bill was passed in 2011 but then governor Benigno R. Fitial vetoed it, noting that claimants would be allowed to circumvent the legislative appropriation power "while impacting the General Fund by offsetting and crediting tax obligations."

## Rejected Senate version

The House voted 19-0 to reject a Senate substitute to a House bill amending the election law

and the creation of a conference committee that will hash out the differences between the two chambers' versions.

The speaker said House conferees on the election bill will be announced later.

Senators passed a substitute version of House Bill 18-107, House Draft 1, retaining only those provisions pertaining to the CNMI's first election of an attorney general in November 2014, leaving out other earlier proposals such as changing the general election from Saturday to "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in even numbered years."

## 4 bills passed

Besides the judgment settlement

bill, the House passed three other bills yesterday, including a just-introduced, 42-page House Bill 18-159 amending the Commonwealth Insurance Act of 1983 to provide for a premium rate review process.

This, after members took turns asking Insurance Commissioner and Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar about the urgency to have this legislation in place vis-à-vis the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare and other health insurance concerns.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) bill passed by a vote of 20-0 at 4:45pm.

Three minutes later or at 4:48pm, the House also passed

by a 20-vote Rep. John Paul Sablan's (Cov-Saipan) HB 18-160, establishing the "exit of the United States Post Office as an official Customs point of entry," so that Customs would have the authority to inspect mail when it arrives at the airport. Customs director Joe Mafnas testified in support of the bill. Also present was Finance Secretary Larissa Larson.

The House also passed Yumul's HB 18-142, SS1, requiring all unclaimed third-party funds within the CNMI Judiciary to be deposited into a special imprest account specifically for the Judiciary's use. The bill passed by a vote of 19-0 at 4:53pm.

## ERRATUM

The story "CW fees allow trade institute to reopen its doors" that was published on Jan. 9, 2014, incorrectly identified one of the power plant course instructors, Kazuyuki Lizama, as Kazue Wuki Lizama. Our apologies for the error.

## SOLDIERS

From Page 1

the first time his 3-month-old daughter. His wife was pregnant with their second child when he was deployed.

"It's kind of warming and trying to keep it together," he said, holding his 2-year-old son at the airport.

Del Rosario also didn't expect the welcoming "to be this big." On hand were his parents Henry and Velma, along with his wife and other relatives and friends.

"Your soldiers are back home. Thank you for everything that you've done. Thank you soldiers for your service," U.S. Army Maj. Joseph Cruz, executive officer of 1-294<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, told an equally grateful crowd at the airport.

One of the 16 soldiers from the CNMI, U.S. Army 1LT Joey Togawa, an executive officer for C Company, remains at Camp Shelby in Mississippi for debriefing, his wife Colleen said.

"But I am here to show my support to the soldiers and their families. I am as excited. Just seeing the look on family members' faces is priceless," Colleen Togawa told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 16 soldiers from the CNMI were among the 600 members of the Guam National Guard's 1-294<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment that were deployed to different parts of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was the largest group of reserve component groups to be mobilized and deployed from the Marianas.

SPC Elbert Espayos, 21, said he was surprised by the big welcoming ceremony and thankful at seeing how the community supports its soldiers.

"We did a lot together. We accomplished a lot of missions and goals," he said of his deployment to Afghanistan.

Espayos and his girlfriend, Midori Adelbai, are planning to go on vacation, which could be in Palau, and get married.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who led the welcoming at the airport, personally thanked the sol-

diers for their service to the country and to the families for their support. He said it was a "touching" moment to see families reunited.

The governor said he was relieved that the soldiers came home safe and sound after putting themselves in harm's way in Afghanistan.

"We're very happy. I'm sure the entire CNMI is happy for their coming home, that we as a community can do our part in defense of our country and the soldiers have been able to do something in defense of our country. We're grateful for all of that," the governor added.

Joining the governor at the welcoming rites were Cabinet members, lawmakers, other government officials, families, and relatives of the soldiers, the Manta Ray Band, and other private sector partners.

SPC Josh Ejercito, 21, said he was anxious to see his whole family after almost a year.

His father, 54-year-old Joey Ejercito, saw him for the first time in Guam on Monday night. The older Ejercito was wearing a welcome shirt with his son's face on it, just as the family had planned, along with a "welcome home" banner prepared for the much-awaited occasion.

The young Ejercito said he will pursue a degree in criminal justice at the University of Guam and would like to become an officer after college.

"I'm trying to be a musician as well. I play three instruments—flute, saxophone and piccolo," he said, adding that the welcoming was "overwhelming."

SPC Dan Bicera also said "it's good to be back."

Unlike the other soldiers, however, Bicera's immediate family was not there to greet him at the airport as they're all now back in the Philippines.

Bicera said he will go back to work and pursue a degree in either criminal justice or human resources. He works at Rome Research Corp. as a security employee.

"The deployment was a new experience," he added.

The father-and-daughter

soldiers—SPC Ivan Igitol and SPC Britney Igitol—were also beaming as they were welcomed by families and friends. They said the welcoming was "awesome, tremendous and very overwhelming."

"It feels great, [there's] nothing like home. It's been a long year, can't wait to settle down and come back to real life," the older Igitol said. "[It's] a whole new experience back there. It's totally out of this world," he said of his deployment.

The younger Igitol said she had butterflies in the stomach, excited, and had mixed emotion when the plane landed on Saipan.

She said she and her father were planning to surprise their family. Little did they know that they will be the ones surprised when their family on Saipan flew to Guam to welcome them last week.

"I thought we were the ones who will surprise them but they surprised me so I started crying. It was a good thing," she said.

She plans to go back to Northern Marianas College to pursue criminal justice.

Marie Salas-Igitol, the wife and daughter of the Igitol soldiers and lead person for the Family Readiness Group, said she and the rest of the family "turned the surprise around" when they traveled to Guam for the arrival last week.

"It was an exciting moment in Guam," she said, adding that it was a "great feeling to have my husband, my daughter home."

She said she's also excited and overjoyed for the families who were seeing their soldiers for the first time after deployment.

The governor, meanwhile, said Salas-Igitol was helpful in uplifting the soldiers and their soldiers' spirits throughout the deployment.

"It's a very wonderful thing to have someone like Marie who can coordinate... She did a very wonderful job," Inos added.

SPC Rita Taitano, holding a bouquet of flowers she got from her family, said she's thankful for her family and community members for taking the time to

welcome them home.

"I'm glad that they're here. Everybody showed [up]. Some had to take off from school and work just to show up and now we're going to go [for] barbecue," she said. She also recognized Kagman Elementary School students and teachers for their welcome banner.

Taitano said she will go back to work at Shell Marianas under Jim Arenovski's Delta Management, and later pursue her studies in Guam.

"I'm looking into [getting an] education [degree]. I love kids and my family is really big so helping them out little by little," she added.

Taitano related that when she turned 21 in September in Afghanistan, she got 15 care packages, "one from every family member so it was something special."

She said the ride from Guam to Saipan was "kind of bumpy and scary but it's good to be home. I wasn't expecting a big surprise, a lot of people. Thank you everybody for coming out. Ow! Thank you. I'm trying to catch my breath."

Besides the Igitols, Del Rosario, Taitano, Bicera, Ejercito and Espayos, the other returning soldiers were SPC Ken Mojica, SPC Delorina Rabauliman, SPC Tiffany Santos, SPC Hainy Borja, SPC Andrew Delos Reyes, SPC Nathaniel Mateo, SPC Andrew Reyes, and SPC John Umbay.

David M. Sablan, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve state chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee, said it's a "great occasion" to welcome home the soldiers after their deployment to Afghanistan.

"And it's also great to see the community's support and the government support. ESGR is also here to support them. We thank them for protecting and defending our way of life," Sablan said.

The welcoming at the airport was followed by a motorcade.

Around Saipan, yellow ribbons were tied to trees and poles to show the community's gratefulness and "welcome home" for the soldiers.

## SNAKE

From Page 1

as a sort of barrier for snakes that manage to slip undetected.

"High-risk cargo are placed there for at least two to three days because snakes can go to household goods, washer and driers, and used cars."

Onni said the BTS Program does keep two snakes on Saipan that they use for presentations at schools and to

train their detector dogs.

She added that the Dec. 3 poisoned-mice drop in Guam was very successful and may finally cull the uncontrolled proliferation of the brown tree snake in the U.S. territory that has led to the decimation of the island's bird population.

"It was very effective and they think maybe the next five or six years, Guam may rid themselves finally of the problem of brown tree snakes."

(Mark Rabago)

## TAX

From Page 1

But he is concerned that any extension could interfere with the April 15 tax filing deadline.

The governor said many of those who were able to apply for tax amnesty within the limited period were either missing or submitted incorrect documents, and the law didn't give flexibility for Finance to be able to accept the correct or more documents after the Jan. 2 deadline.

Sablan said the amendment bill would allow those filers to come back and refile their application, and those who will come in for the first time.

Like the governor, Sablan believes that if only the tax amnesty period is extended, the government would be able to tap more taxpayers who want to settle their tax arrears without being penalized.

"The number is there, we just need to tap it," Sablan said,

reiterating that tax amnesty is one of the most effective ways to generate additional revenue during difficult times without raising taxes.

Under the tax amnesty program, taxpayers may request for the waiver of penalty and interest imposed on late-filed returns, under-reported income, and delinquent tax liabilities.

The governor signed the tax amnesty bill into Public Law 18-29 on Dec. 4. However, it wasn't only until Dec. 13 that a special return and a request for waiver form became available at the Division of Revenue and Taxation for those who wanted to avail of the tax amnesty. This further shrunk the time period for the program.

Finance Secretary Larissa Larson separately said yesterday they might have preliminary figures on the tax amnesty by next week.

This is only the third time that the CNMI government has offered a tax amnesty.

## DEQ

From Page 3

JGO Committee, including fund accountability, and ensuring that there won't be additional hiring but only reshuffling.

At the session, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said two outstanding concerns were addressed in the last few days, including assurances from federal grantors that there won't be a loss of federal

grants as a result of the merger and it will not jeopardize the regulatory functions of these local agencies and the permitting process.

Still, Tebuteb said, the assurance from NOAA and EPA were asked and sent only "after the fact," long after the governor signed the executive merger.

The governor's EO creates a Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to be headed by an administrator and will have two divisions: DEQ and CRM.



# NMC underscores need for continued use of CW fees

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A plan by Gov. Eloy S. Inos to redirect CW fees to funding the wages of U.S. eligible workers in the private sector has prompted a howl from the Northern Marianas College yesterday, saying it needs these funds for its workforce development programs.

David J. Attao, NMC dean of administration and resource development, pointed out that the college is moving in the right direction when it comes to the use of the contract worker's fees remitted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to the

CNMI government each year.

"We are moving at full speed in our plan to use the full \$500,000 as authorized in Public Law 18-18 for fiscal year 2014 (budget law). NMC continues to be appreciative that the governor and the Legislature allocated and appropriated the CW fee funds," said Attao.

CNMI employers pay \$150 in education funding fee for each foreign worker they petition for a CW status. These funds are remitted to the CNMI government, which then earmarks the money for three institutions: the Public School System, NMC, and the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

Now the administration is considering re-allocating the collection by funding the on-the-job training of U.S. eligible workers in the private section. This may result in lesser appropriation for both the college and PSS.

Attao pointed out that the college will use the CW funds to continue developing its trades and casino programs on Rota and Tinian as well as its efforts to continue to develop the tourism and hospitality program on Saipan. The funds will also be used, he said, to pay for critical costs associated with administering the college's vocational and technical programs such

as nursing, education, business, apprenticeship and workforce development.

"We will adhere to the CNMI government's commitment and authorization as stipulated in Public Law 18-18. An educated citizenry, and by extension an educated workforce, have to be prioritized, otherwise the Commonwealth will continue to be dependent on foreign workers," Attao told *Saipan Tribune*. "Education, training, and job placement go hand in hand."

Since the repeated suspension of funding for the college's apprenticeship program,

coupled with inadequate funding for its operation, the allocation of CW fees to NMC is a big help, Attao said.

"With the limited funds NMC receives for the past seven years, not to mention the suspension of funding for vocational and technical programs and apprenticeship program during the same time period, we continue to strive to be the economic engine of the CNMI and to provide quality programs that prepare individuals for meaningful careers that pay above minimum wage," Attao said. "We have seen that our graduates from the School of Education, the NMC nursing program, and in most cases our business graduates earn a minimum of at least

\$11 or more at entry level."

Apart from the ongoing initiatives that aim to boost the workforce development programs at the college, Attao said that NMC also continues to design curriculum to build more entrepreneurs who will benefit off of income, wages, and salaries they earn themselves.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart also said yesterday that the college is in the process of developing a four-year degree in business—as contract workers are the largest holders of bachelor's degrees in business.

"Providing graduates in this particular field can help to further grow and expand business ventures/opportunities for the CNMI," said Hart.



Attao

## MCS gears up for 'Night with the Knights'

Mount Carmel School is gearing up for its upcoming "Night with the Knights," a fundraising banquet that this year will feature a special show and an important initiative for the institution.

The school's alumni, referred to as AlumKnights, have been meeting for months to prepare for the event, which will also cap the school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week for 2014.

The "Night with the Knights" is slated for Feb. 1 at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

"We're very excited about the event and we look forward to all our fellow AlumKnights having a great time. We take great pride in our island's only Catholic school and are willing to give back to a school that gave us so much," said 1990 AlumKnight and MCS Director of Institutional Development John Blanco.

According to Blanco, this year's "Night with the Knights" will feature a school uniform fashion show, a music video

montage of the school's history, raffle prizes, and entertainment with a live band.

The night will also be used to launch a capital campaign to renovate the school's historic stage, which was recently reopened after a 20-year hiatus. The stage is where the CNMI's Covenant and Constitution were signed.

The event will also include the announcement of the 2014 AlumKnight of the Year. Formerly known as the Distinguished Graduate Award, nominations for the prestigious award have been expanded to include AlumKnights who spent at least four consecutive years at the school.

Tickets for "Night with the Knights" are \$30 per person, with the option of upgrading to \$400 for a reserved table of eight. Tickets are available at the school's Business Office. To reserve a ticket or for more information email johnsblanco@gmail.com. (Moneth G. Deposa)

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**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB14-GOV-040**

**Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschnneider are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4 – Garapan, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work will involve removal of existing roadway, utilities, sidewalks, driveways, and miscellaneous structures and landscaping and the installation of a new drainage/infiltration system beneath the roadway, new curb and gutter, new driveways, new sidewalks, new roadway, new landscaping, and the construction of a new bioswale system.

The project package will be available Friday, December 20, 2013 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 2:00PM ChST at the Governor's Conference Room, ground floor of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST January 8, 2014 to Mr. Carl Castro, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions will be copied to other prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB14-GOV-040, Construction of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project Alternatives 2, 3 & 4"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST January 21, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 21, 2014 and must be received no later than January 29, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST January 29, 2014. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST January 21, 2014.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Government Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and


5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Three Hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director  
Procurement and Supply, DOF



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**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB14-GOV-044**

**Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment**  
**Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan MP**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschnneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repairs/Replacement of Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC), Saipan , Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on December 23, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project at the project site on December 30, 2013, 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Telemetry Room, CHC. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 06, 2014 to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, Project Manager for the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Fax Number (670) 664-2408 or email: [balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com](mailto:balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com) Response to questions will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB14-GOV-044, Repair/Replacement of the Mechanical Equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:30 AM ChST Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:30 AM ChST January 21, 2014, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 21, 2014 and must be received no later than January 29, 2014 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

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For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Government Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Three Hundred (300) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by Three Hundred (300) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## UPDATE ON ROMERO MURDER CASE

# Judge allows 2 FBI experts to testify via Skype

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho granted yesterday the Office of the Attorney General’s request to allow two Federal Bureau of Investigation experts in Virginia to testify remotely via Skype in connection with the case against murder suspect Joseph A. Crisostomo.

FBI experts Linda M. Otterstatter and Lara D. Adams will testify during the Daubert hearing scheduled for Feb. 14, 2014, at 9am.

A Daubert hearing is a proceeding held before trial to determine whether a proposed expert meets the requirements.

Otterstatter is a physical scientist/forensic examiner, while

Adams is a forensic examiner. Both work at the FBI laboratory division in Quantico, Virginia.

Camacho said the OAG has met all of the procedural requirements for requesting remote testimony and, since Crisostomo does not oppose remote testimony, it is unnecessary to require the two to travel between Virginia and Saipan more than once.

Crisostomo faces charges of kidnapping and killing bartender Emerita Romero, whose body was found in the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012. The jury trial will be on April 7, 2014.

Assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty filed on Dec. 2 a motion asking for a continuance of the Daubert hearing, presently scheduled for Feb. 14, to the time of trial so that Otterstat-

ter and Adams will only have to travel to Saipan from Virginia and testify one time.

As an alternative, Flaherty asked for an order allowing the two witnesses to testify remotely via Skype on Feb. 14.

Flaherty said the government expects Otterstatter and Adams to testify on the tests they did on evidence recovered during the investigation of Romero’s death and their expert analysis of those test results.

The government intends to introduce at trial evidence of testing and analysis of hair and fiber and mitochondrial DNA evidence.

The prosecutor said the expense of flying Otterstatter and Adams from Virginia to Saipan and back is about \$3,000 to \$3,500.

## Group offers free health screening in appreciation

In appreciation and gratitude to the CNMI and friends who supported and helped the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and in an effort to increase awareness of maintaining good health and to promote education on disease prevention, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter will be hosting a free three-hour health screening on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, from 8am to 11am, at the Kilili Pavilion, Susupe, Saipan. Registration starts at 8am and will continue until 10am.

People who would like to avail of the blood sugar tests are advised to fast—to refrain from eating and drinking liquids preferably 12 hours or at least two hours prior to the actual testing.

“This is the first free health screening for the year 2014 that USP4GG will be hosting. Screening several key vital

metrics include blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, height and BMI. Free health screening events help members of our community take charge of their health. Further, this free health screening signifies a gesture of our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to the CNMI and friends who expressed and showed their compassion, care, help, and concern for the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines,” said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of US-P4GG Marianas Chapter and founding member, board member, and secretary of the Global Filipino Diaspora Council.

Brochures and Information on disease prevention such as hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, stroke, coronary heart disease, signs and symptoms of a heart attack, among others, will be distributed at the health

screening site for free. Fact sheets about peripheral arterial disease, asthma, high blood pressure in children, guides to a healthy heart, healthy weight, healthy sleep, living well with heart disease, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, among others, will also be distributed to participants.

“The public is invited to participate regardless of ethnicity, citizenship, religion, and nationality. I wish everyone a healthy and a happy New Year,” added Lamkin.

The US Pinoys for Good Governance is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New York, headed by national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis, national president Rodel Rodis, and spokesperson Ted Laguatan. Its mission is a better life for Filipinos everywhere and a better Philippines. **(PR)**

**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
**Attorney at Law**  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
  
*Attorney for Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:**  
  
**GREGORIA I. MALLENS,**  
  
**Decedent.**  
  
**Civil Action No. 06-0017**  
  
**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION**  
  
Date: January 28, 2014  
Time: 1:30 PM  
Judge: Honorable David A. Wiseman  
  
**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE GREGORIA I. MALLENS:**  
  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that **Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero**, Administratrix of the Estate of Gregoria I. Mallens, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Final Decree of Distribution**. The attorney for Claimant Marianas Public Land Trust is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at law, whose address is Plata drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**  
The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the **28th day of January, 2014 at 1:30 PM** at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested person or entities should appear at this hearing.  
Dated this 19th day of December 2013.  
  
/s/ Clerk of Court  
Deputy Clerk of Court

**BRUCE L. MAILMAN, F0153**  
MAYA B. KARA, F0169  
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC  
PMB 238 PPP, Box 10,000  
Saipan, MP 96950-8900  
Telephone: 233-0081  
Facsimile: 233-0090  
  
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
  
**LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,**  
  
**Plaintiff,**  
**-v-**  
**MICHAEL P. KILELEMAN and JULITA ANN TAGABUEL, fka JULITA T. KILELEMAN,**  
  
**Defendants.**  
  
TO: JULITA ANN TAGABUEL  
fka JULITA T. KILELEMAN  
155 Ireland Road  
Bayboro, North Carolina 28515  
  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to MAILMAN & KARA, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is PMB 238 PPP Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.  
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
By order of the above Court:  
  
/s/CLERK OF COURTS  
  
DATED this 27th day of December, 2013.

**MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122**  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547 • FAX: (670) 234-9537  
  
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,  
Plaintiff,  
-v-  
LYDIA R. SASO, RYO SASO, and MARIANA R. CONCEPCION, Defendants.  
  
**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0211**  
  
**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**  
  
TO: LYDIA R. SASO and RYO SASO, Defendants:  
  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.  
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.  
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.  
Dated December 27, 2013 by order of the Court:  
  
/s/Clerk of Court



# System upgrades delay installation of prepaid electric meters

Power customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. who wish to have prepaid meters installed in their households will have to wait awhile after the agency announced yesterday that installation of these meters will be delayed for some months.

CUC cited the planned upgrades on the system's model as the reason for the delay in

this undertaking.

"The 1,000 new meters that CUC has in stock, along with the 1,500 meters on order, allow customers to purchase additional power online or over the telephone. This avoids the need to visit CUC offices to obtain the 'tokens' the currently installed versions of prepaid electric meters require," the CUC statement said, adding

that in order to provide this enhanced functionality, the new prepaid electric meter models communicate by wireless communication.

It was disclosed that the wireless communication facilities on Saipan are in the process of being upgraded.

"The upgrade will, among other things, provide significantly improved connectivity

and communications speed for the prepaid electric meters. However, the communications module inside the meters must be upgraded in order for the meters to work on the new system," said CUC statement.

It said the prepaid electric meter upgrades are expected to be completed by the end of June 2014 and meter installations will begin as soon as

possible after the upgrades are completed.

"We're confident our customers will find that the enhanced capabilities of the new meters will be well worth the wait," said CUC.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that CUC received a \$1.22 million grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs last year. Called the

"Empowering Insular Communities" grant, it consists of two projects: promoting conservation and looking for new energy sources. Both projects are key components of the CNMI's energy planning. Of the grant amount, *Saipan Tribune* learned that \$622,000 is for the procurement of prepaid electrical meters. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

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# Alabama judge to speak at MLK Day event

A circuit judge of the 10th Judicial Court of Alabama will serve as guest speaker of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's special program to mark Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the CNMI on the evening Jan. 20 at the American Memorial Park Theater.

Judge Helen Shores Lee's presentation, "From Dynamite Hill to the Halls of Justice: Continuing the Legacy of Dr. King through Service," will start at 5pm and is free of charge to the public.

Lee will also make a series of presentations at public and private high schools, facilitate a film discussion session, and give a Continuing Legal Education presentation to members of the CNMI Bar Association.

Lee was appointed circuit judge of the 10th Judicial Court of Alabama by Gov. Don Siegelman and assumed the bench in January 2003. She became the first African-American woman to serve in the Civil Division of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County.

Prior to this, Lee served as magistrate for the city of Birmingham. She practiced law in the Birmingham community for more than 16 years with the firm of Shores and Lee until her judicial appointment in 2003.

Lee is a graduate of Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. She also earned a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and a Juris Doctorate from Samford University, Cumberland School of Law.



Lee

She is a member of the American Bar Association, Alabama State Bar, Birmingham Bar, and National Bar Association.

She has also served on the boards of numerous civic organizations.

"As a child, I learned from my parents early the importance of giving back to the community. As an adult, I have found that giving of your time and service can be one of the most rewarding experiences in life. If I am to promote the welfare of my community and make my city a better place to live, then I must get involved and I must give of my time, my service, and myself for the benefit of others. This is the model I follow in my professional career and personal life," she said.

Lee has also co-authored a book, *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill*, that chronicles the history of her father's struggle for civil rights in Birmingham during the Jim Crow era. (Mark Rabago)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 10, 2006

### 'Economy governors'

Newly installed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vowed yesterday to be the governor who will revive the Commonwealth's slumping economy and restore finance integrity in the government. Fitial was sworn in as the 6th elected governor of the Northern Marianas during a private ceremony at the Multi-Purpose Center at midnight of Jan. 9, 2006, Commonwealth Day. A ceremonial oath-taking took place at the Marianas High School gymnasium at 2:30pm yesterday. In his inaugural address, Fitial said he and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez would be known as the "economy governors."

### Heat, overcrowding fail to dampen rites

There was sporadic drizzling throughout the island, but it was hot and crowded at the sites of the inauguration for the CNMI's three highest-ranking public officials and new set of lawmakers. The sweating and soaking, however, did not prevent many people from staying until the end of the rites. Rain showers greeted guests shortly before the scheduled 2pm inauguration of Gov.-elect Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov.-elect Timothy P. Villagomez and Resident Representative to the U.S.-elect Pedro A. Tenorio at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. The showers prompted many attendees who were slowly walking toward the entrance of the MHS Gym to rush inside the building. By then, most of the dignitaries and VIP off-island guests were already secured in their seats. When the drizzle momentarily halted, the guests and the audience started to feel the heat.

January 10, 2007

### Report: NMI economy will be hurt

Due to the CNMI's continued reliance on cheap and imported labor, efforts to eliminate the nonresident population, including a federalized immigration, would hurt the local economy, said a report from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. The report, prepared by MBA students and 2006 DOI Island Fellows David Shreni and Claudio A. Bartulocci, said that access to cheap labor has been a major advantage enjoyed by the private sector in the CNMI over the years.

### Fund, Finance negotiate \$125M debt

The NMI Retirement Fund has begun to meet with the CNMI Department of Finance to negotiate a settlement agreement regarding the central government's \$125-million retirement debt. NMI Fund board of trustees member Juan "Pan" Guerrero said that he had an initial meeting with Finance Secretary Eloy Inos on the issue. "The board has tasked me to negotiate with the government. ... My discussion with the secretary was very positive. We can work on some payment scheme," said Guerrero in an interview. He said the Fund board is pushing for high payment terms. "But at the same time, there has to be some reality. That's what Finance is saying because the government has no cash," he said.

January 10, 2008

### 600 unpaid Labor judgments

From 300, the Federal Ombudsman's Office has now collected 600 Labor administrative orders that awarded unpaid wages and other damages to guest workers but remain uncollected. Federal Ombudsman Jim Benedetto told Saipan Tribune yesterday that he can't give a precise summary yet, but that it will be a multi-million dollar figure. "As to what recommendations I will make to Congress for how best to assist in the collection of these awards, it will depend on our assessment, in consultation with the CNMI Attorney General's Office and the Department of Labor, of how much of the outstanding amount is uncollectible," Benedetto said.

### Bye Hotel Nikko; hello to Palms Resort Saipan

Starting Feb. 1, 2008, Hotel Nikko Saipan will be no more and the hotel at the northernmost part of Saipan will henceforth be called Palms Resort Saipan, with new owner United Micronesia Development Association still deliberating on who among world-class hoteliers Sherraton, Hilton, and Marriott to manage the property. In an interview yesterday, director of asset management and chief financial officer Hiroyuki Saito said bringing in a well-known hotelier to run operations for Palms Resort Saipan will be in the best interest of the Commonwealth. "[It's for] the future of the CNMI to have a world-class hotel operator here because they already have their own advertising network, clientele, and standard and it would give the islands another landmark property," he said.

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# Former Guam congressman Ben Blaz has died

## High surf advisory extended to today

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management office issued yesterday a high surf advisory to warn the public of hazardous surf that is projected to persist until this morning, Friday.

The high surf advisory is now in effect until 6am today.

According to the advisory, a north swell remains large enough to generate hazardous surf along north facing reefs for the Marianas. The large north and northeast swell across the Marianas will produce hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet along

north facing shores of the Marianas but surf heights are expected to drop below hazardous levels by this morning.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (PR)

**GUAM (Pacific News Center)**—The Governor's Office has confirmed that former congressman and retired Marine brigadier general Ben Blaz has died at a hospital in Virginia. He was 85 years old.

Blaz had been in intensive care following a fall.

Governor's spokesman Phil Leon Guerrero said that all GovGuam flags have been ordered to half-staff in honor of Blaz's passing.

Blaz's last public appearance was on island at the University of Guam.

Blaz was last in Guam in October. He was the guest speaker for the 19th Presidential

Lecture Series on Oct. 21. His lecture was titled "Remembrances and Realities" and he spoke to the students about the significance of knowing one's self and one's goal and he encouraged students to learn and be educated not only through reading but through experience.

## NMI Energy to hold promotion on Rota

The Department of Public Work's Energy Division Office will be hosting an Energy Awareness Event from Tuesday, Jan. 21, through Friday, Jan. 25, 2014, from 9am to 4pm for the residents of Rota at the Rota Mayor's Office. The Energy Division will be distributing CFL's and reusable tote bags as part of its Energy Awareness Program.

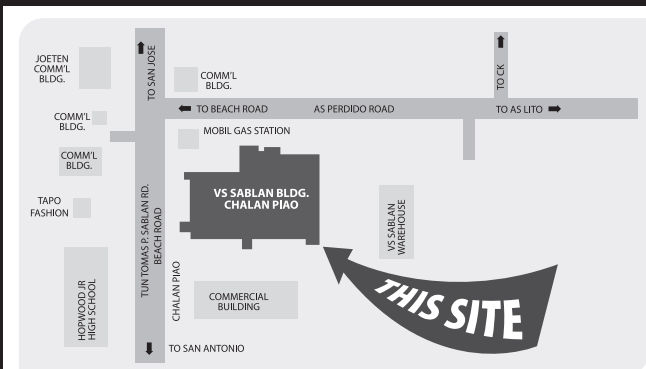
This project is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The cornerstone of this campaign is to "Take action now, empower leadership, innovation and excellence to realize a secure energy future," encouraging everyone to participate by taking small steps that make a big difference and by challenging people to do more to help reduce the effects of global warming with more energy-efficient choices at home and at work. Together we can make a difference.

These promotions are available to all residential paying customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on a first-come, first serve basis, and therefore must provide a copy of their most current utility bill and a valid ID to receive the free items. Businesses are not eligible to participate in the event.

For questions or information regarding the Energy Awareness Event you may contact the Energy Division at 664-4480/1. (Office of the Governor)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

## Saipan Tribune

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## The tragedy of Iraq—a decade later

By LANE FILLER

Newsday

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.



This spring will mark 10 years since I set off for Iraq as a reporter for the *Times Leader* in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. I was the second reporter the newspaper dispatched to cover the 109th Field Artillery of the Pennsylvania National Guard, big news because nearly all its members hailed from the paper's circulation area. The *Times Leader's* first reporter in Baghdad called six weeks into the assignment, rattled, and told the bosses he was coming home immediately.

It wasn't a great time to be in Baghdad. The headlines were, in fact, much the same as we've seen this week, as violence threatens to undo any gains in stability or peacefulness, however small, the U.S. might have gained there. But because the stories in 2004 also included American fatalities and the war hadn't entirely exhausted the American attention span in 2004, they ran on front pages rather than as briefs buried between items about newly sober celebrities embracing Kaballah.

Three days before I left for Baghdad, four American military contractors were dragged from their vehicles by Iraqi insurgents in Fallujah, beaten and set on fire. Their corpses were then dragged through the streets and dangled from a bridge. It's one of the most lasting images of the war.

When we talk about support for the war back then, we must remember such images. We must remind ourselves how murderous Saddam Hussein was, and how enraged many Americans were at any land that harbored Islamic fundamentalism. Americans supported the war thanks partly to false information on weapons of mass destruction and links to the 9/11 attacks. But nations didn't have to attack or threaten us directly to earn our violent enmity then: chanting "Death to America," while we reeled from so much death in America was quite enough.

I was sure, as I stepped on the first of the four planes it would take to get to Baghdad, that the United States was correct in bringing war to that nation. Three months later, when I arrived home, I was unsure. I had seen a tableau of enormous complexity, and it made me distrust anyone who was entirely certain the war was either just or misguided.

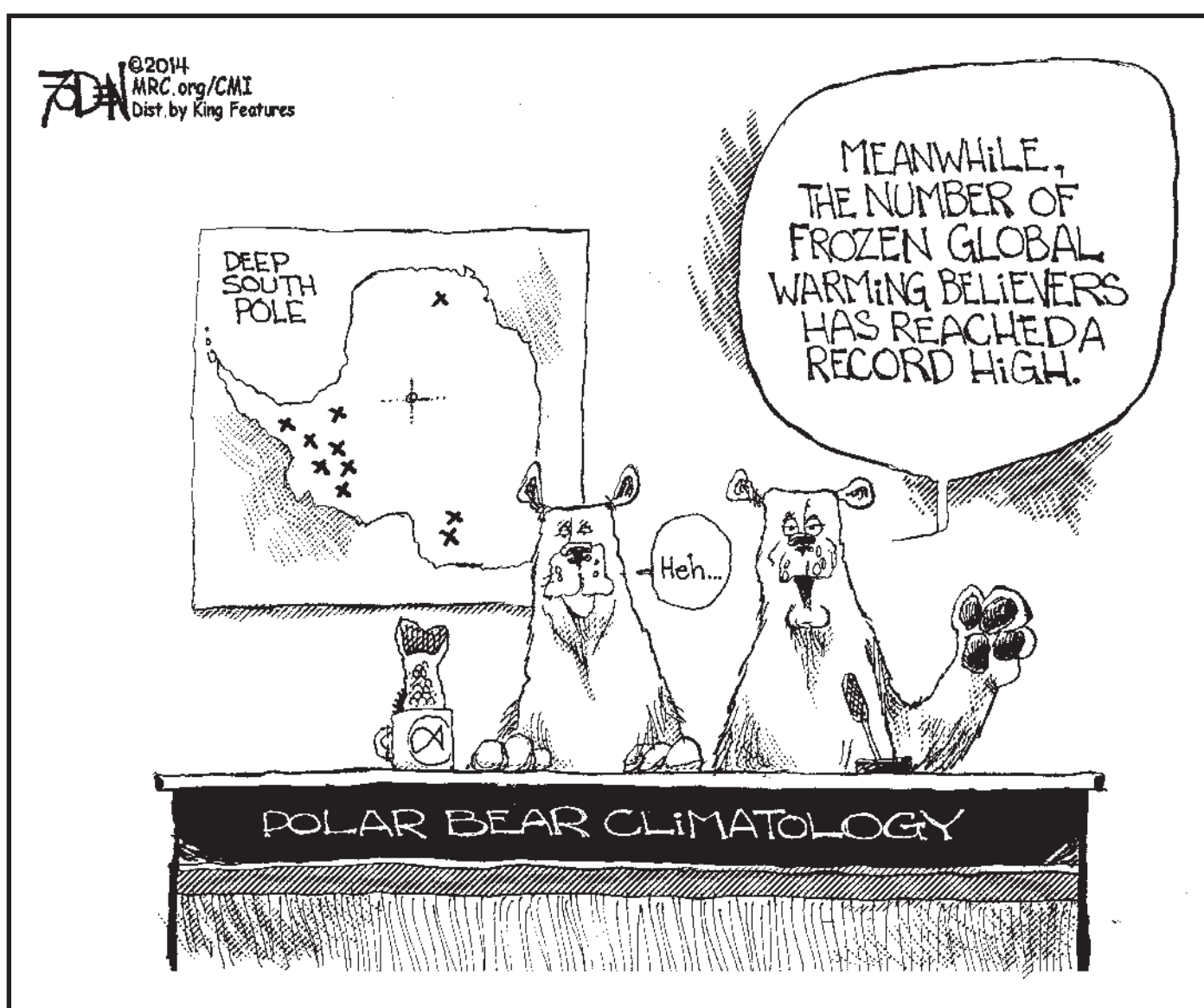
Today, I know the war was a disastrous mistake. The following are some realities worth remembering when we consider such adventures.

Although it's hard to determine exactly how many Iraqis were killed in the war, The Associated Press has reported the number exceeds 100,000. The conflict destabilized the nation's ability to deliver medicine, food, electricity, safe streets and jobs. The British medical journal *The Lancet* concluded that the actual number of Iraqi deaths caused by the war was at least 600,000, although some experts called the figure unreasonably high.

It's also difficult to say how many Iraqi deaths Saddam Hussein was responsible for, when you combine his nation's wars and his gassings and murders.

But causing the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis (and 4,500 Americans) to free a nation of a dictator who caused the deaths of a lot of Iraqis doesn't shine as a strategy for improving the world.

See IRAQ on Next Page

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## Snowden, capital punishment and why the US won't get him back

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS  
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

The heated debate surrounding NSA leaker Edward Snowden usually revolves around two extreme positions: Some consider him a hero and a whistle-blower worthy of clemency, while others consider his acts treasonous and believe he should be subject to the harshest punishment in our penal system.

Ironically, that very same penal system makes getting Snowden back to the United States nearly impossible.

The reason? The punishment meted to traitors can include death. And nearly all our allied nations and many others refuse to extradite criminal suspects to the United States if they are potentially subjected to capital punishment.

Which is why in the case of Snowden, Attorney General Eric Holder wrote a letter to the Russian Justice Minister last year saying that he would not seek the death penalty in his case. The letter, which accused Snowden of theft and espionage, was intended to erase the death penalty extradition hindrance. Holder went on to clarify that "the United States would not seek the death penalty even if Mr. Snowden were charged with additional death penalty-eligible crimes."

Snowden is not the first American fugitive to receive a get-out-of-capital-punishment free card. In case after case, and on a case-by-case basis, the United States engages diplomatically with other countries to provide assurances that some of the most heinous crimes committed by fugitives abroad will not be subject to capital punishment in the United States. It is usually the only way to get those criminals—some of them accused of terrorism—back to the United States to face any justice at all.

As a result, it creates a two-tier sentencing system for those committing horrendous crimes against Americans: one for those who get caught in the United States, such as Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, who was executed by lethal injection; another for those who are captured outside our national territory, such as Abu Hamza, an Islamic militant kept in Britain for nearly eight years before he was extradited to the United States to face terrorist related charges. If guilty, he will never face the death penalty.

If non-U.S. forces had captured Osama bin Laden while alive, the fugitive might not have been extraditable to the United States. During the hunt for bin Laden in 2001, British Defense Secretary Geoff

Hoon put the U.S. government on notice that had British troops found the world's most wanted criminal, they would have required assurances that the United States would not seek the death penalty before handing him over.

The death penalty in the United States also creates the perverse reality that the more heinous the crime, the less likely a fugitive in a foreign land will see swift justice in the United States. The less consequential a felony — grand theft auto, for example — the more likely the extradition. "If you steal a car in the U.S., Mexico will return you to face prosecution and punishment. If you kill the driver, Mexico will protect you," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in the Congressional Record at the end of 2003.

This is not theoretical. In April 2002, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David March conducted a routine traffic stop. March was shot dead, execution style, by Armando Garcia, who then immediately fled south of the border to Mexico to join at least an additional 350 alleged murderers and criminals who were effectively non-extraditable to California. Garcia was eventually returned after years of legal and diplomatic engagement to satisfy the Mexican government and its restriction on extraditing to countries that practice the death penalty. Garcia received a life sentence in 2007.

In the last few years, Californians have become much more sophisticated about capital punishment. In 2012, voters in this state rejected Proposition 34, which would have banned the death penalty, but were actively engaged in the debate — a debate that raised serious questions about deterrence, cost and morality.

The capital punishment questions that all Americans now need to ask include: Why do we give up our chance to get back well-known criminals living overseas? Is it fair to have a system that requires an exemption for the most egregious crimes and criminals and no exemption for those criminals who act and are caught within U.S. territory? Why maintain an incentive for criminal acts against the United States and its citizens abroad, while maintaining the ultimate punishment for those who commit similar acts inside the country?

Our more globally integrated society requires increasingly expedient and assured justice. That will be difficult to achieve as long as the death penalty remains on our books.

Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University. He is currently a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. Readers may send him email at markos@stanford.edu. He wrote this for the Sacramento Bee.



## The cocktail conspiracy

Now that the holidays are over I've unpacked my suitcase and have settled back into my beach chair. Being back in my milieu inspires profound thoughts, such as, "What does milieu mean?"

Hey, don't ask me. I've got no idea what it means. But it sounds classy.

And that's probably the only dose of class I've got to offer. Not that people haven't tried to improve me on this score. They have.

In fact, over the holidays, I was the target of a cocktail conspiracy, as colleagues, friends, and family tried to refine my woefully unrefined palate.

I will admit that my taste buds are stuck in my college days. I still consider pizza to be the pinnacle of gastronomic accomplishment, though I'll allow that a good cheeseburger is hard to beat.

And, more to the point here, the closest I get to a "cocktail" is a half-pint of flat beer on occasion. Sure, that's a far cry from the chug-a-lug fun of college, but those days were never meant to last forever.

But, speaking of forever, I have always thought that anything stronger than beer tastes like turpentine. The lack of loft on my taste buds supposedly marks me as a man of low breeding, since I fail to appreciate the nuances of a vintage wine or the personality of a single-malt Scotch.

That's why some well-meaning people think I'm missing out on the finer things in life.

Before Thanksgiving my wife and I attended an upper-crust wine tasting event, which came via an invite from big international bankers. For all its refined pedigree it was a casual affair, which is good since I left my silk ascot at the cleaners.

The people at the event were very nice, and I got to hobnob with

## Tsunami of bankruptcy

The CNMI has never had to face serious fiscal disaster until recent past. The pile of debts versus revenue or income is oceans apart. The elected elite is wary there's serious trouble ahead: a tsunami of bankruptcy to which there's no silver bullet.

Perhaps by a stroke of luck, there were intermittent infusion of funds somewhere along the way, i.e., Micronesian War Claims, federal help for houses destroyed by super storms, hefty tax returns, land leases, and land compensation, among others.

Then came the boom years where every corner of the island was smoldering with barbecue smoke. We had so much money we even told Uncle Sam in 1993, "No more appropriations for NMI government operations." Or did we open our big mouth a bit prematurely? Shouldn't we be asking Uncle Sam for SOS to scaffold the economic disaster at home?

Today, there's nothing out there but vicious sparks of increases, from health premiums to food commodities and cuts to pension pay that "we the people" must endure. As we count pennies, nickels, and dimes, there's nothing left. So we engage in insanity—counting the same pennies again and again and hoping for different results. The derivative remains the same. *A Saina!*

Budget hawks are now rehearsing a nursery rhyme, *Swing Low*, hoping government managers understand they can no longer splurge on "nice-to-have" items but zero in on "must have" only paradigm. Is austerity now in the wings? How about RIF? I'm not being facetious, knowing the fiscal mess at hand is a lot more egregious than meets the eye. We're broke, *di ba?*

Perhaps we ought to ask private industries to move into government if only to take critical ocular review of how they would run departments and agencies and if there's a need for that many people on the bloated public payroll. The goal is to instill efficiency and efficacy in the delivery of public services. Shall we try this just for the sake of determining if the NMI government isn't larger than it need be?

I recall a desk audit undertaken at DPL about nine years ago. The effort slammed wasteful spending to zero. It's an audit that revealed employees' credentials and qualifications for jobs they occupied, basking in salaries paid for with political gratuity. Realignment was instituted, reconciling salaries commensurate with qualifications. No fun but had to be done forthwith in the interest of taxpayers.

The public sector just lost its biggest incentive—retirement program—that lured a lot of locals to government jobs. Moreover,

### IRAQ

From Page 10

The Iraq War, by 2017, will have cost the United States about \$2 trillion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Iraq, as the war began, had a population of 27 million. That means the conflict cost about \$74,000 per Iraqi. In the future, we might consider just giving each person in a hostile nation \$25,000, and telling them they each get an additional \$25,000 in 10 years if they behave. It would be a cheaper way to change a nation than attacking, and based on recent headlines, it could not be any less effective.

gourmets (or whatever they're called) from Hong Kong, Tokyo, and other fast-moving venues. These guys spend more on a bottle of wine than I did on my last car.

Many were surprisingly young; such are the fortunes of Asia's up-and-coming hotshots. The old school was, of course, well-represented, too. As for me, when it comes to wine, I'm simply no-school. Fortunately, I'm a practiced hand at being respectfully deferential, which can wallpaper over a lot of rough spots. So I survived the event.

This was, however, just the first round in the cocktail conspiracy.

Shortly thereafter, a holiday trip landed us with old friends, one of whom is a refined gentleman with a well-schooled nose for Scotch. He, his wife, and my wife had compiled an assortment of various labels to sample and compare. This compilation was no last-minute thing but had, in fact, been in the works for quite some time.

So for that week all the grown ups, except me, were titillating their tongues with fine spirits after dinner. As for me, I watched zombie movies and ate popcorn with the kids.

But the year wasn't over yet. As it drew to a close, my wife and father would enjoy a fine Scotch every evening during a visit. Me, I'd have a beer, but nobody wanted to talk about beer. No, they'd discuss Scotch. I shrank into utter invisibility. I felt like I should be wearing overalls and playing a banjo in the most distant corner of the room.

I fear that family references to me are given *sotto voce* as I'm twanging on my banjo safely out of earshot. Here's what they are saying about me:

"Yeah, that's Junior in the corner. He's a bit dim, as you can see from his vacant expression. We just keep him around to fix the cars and to eat whatever won't fit in the compost heap. Don't worry,

a government job doesn't require turning in a profit at day's end. Thus the special incentive to specialize in coffee shop visitations that sometime include breakfast and lunch eating off a single menu: "do-nothing" plus overtime. Furthermore, they still get paid at least three dollars more than comparable jobs in private industries. Why pay non-productive public sector employees more at the expense of productive private sector employees?

Recalled downsizing the *Saipan Tribune* from a monthly subsidy of \$20,000 to zero by year's end. Hence, it stood on its own feet financially. Having been a fiscal conservative, I know that you could only spend what's in your wallet. Otherwise, you're stealing from Jose to feed Juan. Nah! In private industries you're hired for your expertise and productivity. You chance specializing in coffee shop visitations and you're shown the front door before lunch break. Yes, earn your dues with integrity.

Is there any other largess that could ease the hardship on the islands today? There's nothing up that alley. Hence, it's time to tighten our belts and learn to live within our means, including cutting the luxury of spending on spending. The tsunami of bankruptcy is here!

### Covenant Agreement is federal law

The call for renegotiation of our relationship with the feds ignores the legal fact that the Covenant Agreement is under U.S. Public Law 94-241. It's now subject to the U.S. legislative process, not our usual fume-off-our-chest call for change in instant soba fashion. We failed due diligence once more, *di ba?*

A quick glimpse into the agreement would also reveal that it is a permanent arrangement. Is there room to rearrange the chairs on the deck when the boat has toppled over?

The appropriate course of action is to seek amendment to prevailing federal law. It means formal submission of issues to the CNMI non-voting delegate who in turn translates it into proposed amend-

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We will stop 'IT'

While we are suffering, Eulogio Inos enjoys expensive luncheons and dinners in hotels and restaurants. "IT" is sickening to say the least!

Thousands of our people are suffering from a bad economy because we were once fooled to just "Let it BE." Retirees and their families are suffering because Eulogio Inos agreed with Betty Johnson's \$40 million lawyers to cut 25 percent of retirees' pension without their permission. We are all struggling to make ends meet due to the high cost of CUC and gas. There is lingering austerity in the works as reported in the local newspaper.

Let us pray and hope that Eulogio Inos will not push through with his austerity plan that may include cuts in government work hours. Can you imagine the magnitude of suffering employees and their families will painfully experience when 8 or 16 hours will again be cut from their paycheck? Eulogio Inos must stop his reimbursement scheme and he must stop the illegal land compensation and/

### By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.



though, he doesn't drool much, unless he smells ketchup."

"Ketchup? How dreadfully plebeian."

"Indeed."

"Then I suppose offering him some Scotch is completely out of the question."

"Completely. Last time somebody tried that, he bit them."

"He got violent?"

"No. He got hungry. We forgot to compost last week."

Well, that's pretty much how 2013 ended up.

As you can see, despite the cocktail conspiracy, I didn't accrue any equity in the "class" category. But, as a matter of principle I did procrastinate more than usual, so I figure that the year pretty much balanced out.

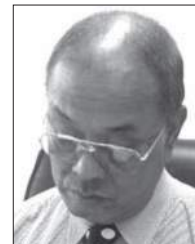
Which bring me back to this milieu thing. Whatever it is, I'm comfortable with it, and I'm not going to let any highfalutin' bunch of snobs mess with it. So we'll just set the milieu right here on the beach, next to the bag of potato chips, where we can keep an eye on it.

And then we'll get on with the important things in life, like sitting in beach chairs and watching sunsets.

### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



ments. But this undertaking needs everybody speaking off the same page. We must take up refresher courses on "Purposeful Organization 101" so we define the usual disorientation down to common decency and purpose. The usual fire sparks into the heavens only feeds the ego but defeats attaining real mileage in aspirations.

Otherwise, the 902 provision calls for consultation every 10 years. Have we proactively sought use of this vehicle? It's foolhardy aspiring for something that is already federal law. Unless we succeed in seeking changes via the U.S. legislative process, it's all blather.

The perennial blame game never ceases. Perhaps this is because we blame everybody else for our own inadequacies in the exercise of strengthening our democratic institutions. I think it's called self-government often taken as synonymous to sovereignty. Therein lies the adolescence of our vacuous and feel-good posturing. Covenant Section 101 settles this score once and for all.

■ ■ ■

The nuts, bolts, and cogs have come off our wagon every so often. It's the usual blame others for our inadequacies. Reminds me of a man who insisted on meeting the late Russian Premiere Nikita Khrushchev. He was raging and ranting, kicking the premiere's desk saying, "All this mess at home is the fault of President John F. Kennedy." He missed the target by oceans apart. Seesuzzzz!

or other payments for his political gains before he continues to hurt our people some more.

Such irresponsible and corrupt style of government must be stopped. Really, Eulogio Inos is right! Don't expect the economy to get better under his watch because "this is it." Eulogio Inos may expect that our people will vote for the "This is IT" couple, but I say no way that we will vote for the couple, but we will stop "IT" from further corrupting our CNMI. We will stop "IT" from further hurting our people.

Eulogio Inos has fooled us once with the "Let it BE" attitude but as the saying goes, he is the fool. If we allow him to fool us again with the "This is IT" nonsense, then we will be the fools. Let us stop "IT" before he makes a mockery of us all!

### Jesus I. Taisague






Koblerville, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77

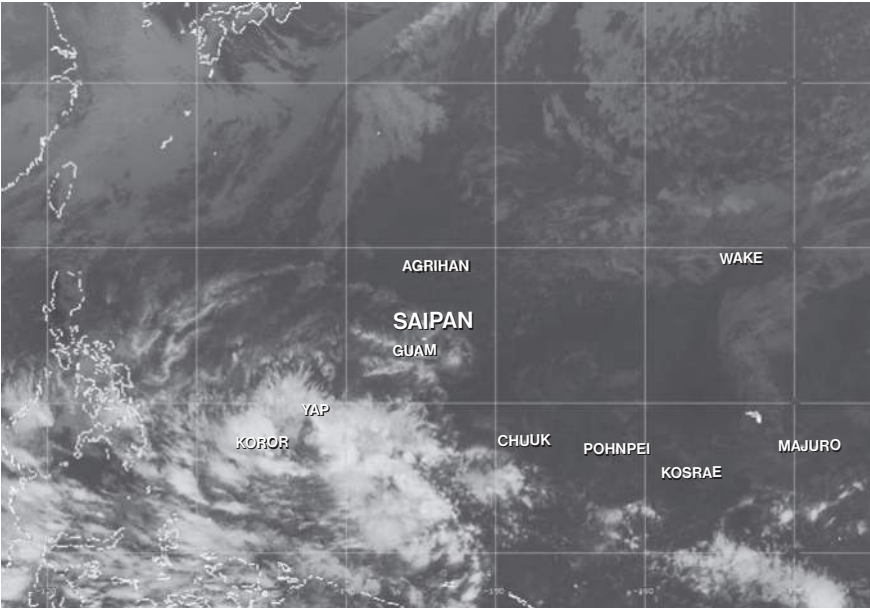
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 66
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 66
Miami	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 33 ▼ 25
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Paris	Fog	▲ 47 ▼ 40
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 40 ▼ 29
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 45
Salem	Showers	▲ 46 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 22
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 30
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 40 ▼ 31

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
8:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
2:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:25 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered near 3N142E. Several areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Yap state and the Republic of Palau are between the equator and 10N from 130E to 151E. A cold front runs southwestward from 25N135E to 21N132E then curves beyond 130E at 21N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along the front and northwestward to beyond 25N. A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N140E to end near 17N138E. Scattered showers are within 75 miles of the trough axis. A cold front east of Wake Island stretches southwestward from the date line at 22N180 to 18N174E, then runs westward as a shear line just south of Wake Island to end near 17N150E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles north of this boundary.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:05 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:26 PM	1:34 AM
Saturday	2:11 PM	2:25 AM
Sunday	2:58 PM	3:16 AM
Monday	3:45 PM	4:06 AM
Tuesday	4:34 PM	4:54 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.  
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 3, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota  UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota  UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 D2102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)  D2104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> D2101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily D2103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam  UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM  DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## Census: Almost 1 in 3 Americans poor at least two months from 2009 to 2011

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 31.6 percent of Americans were in poverty for at least two months from 2009 to 2011, a 4.5 percentage point increase over the prerecession period of 2005 to 2007. Poverty was a temporary state for most people; however, 3.5 percent of Americans were in poverty for the entire three-year period.

The report, Dynamics of Economic Well-Being: Poverty, 2009-2011, traces a sample of U.S. residents through the Survey of Income and Program Participation—statistics are presented by various demographic and socio-economic characteristics, and statistical comparisons are made to data collected from 2005 to 2007.

“When people see poverty statistics, they often think these are people who were poor during an entire period,” said Ashley Edwards, a poverty analyst with the Census Bureau’s Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division. “This survey allows us to investigate how individuals moved into and out of poverty during and immediately following the most recent recession, while making comparisons to the earlier three-year period immediately leading into the recession.” Accord-

ing to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the last recession spanned from December 2007 to June 2009.

Poverty was a persistent condition for many; among the 37.6 million people who were poor at the start of the period—January and February 2009—26.4 percent remained poor throughout the next 34 months. However, many people escaped poverty: 12.6 million, or 35.4 percent, who were poor in 2009 were not in poverty in 2011.

As some moved out of poverty, others moved into it. About 13.5 million people, or 5.4 percent, who were not in poverty in 2009 slipped into poverty by 2011.

Other highlights from the report include:

- The percent of individuals experiencing a poverty spell lasting at least two months increased from 27.1 percent over the period of 2005 to 2007 to 31.6 percent from 2009 to 2011. Chronic poverty rates (poor all 36 months) also increased, from 3.0 percent over the prerecession period to 3.5 percent from 2009 to 2011.

- For those who were in poverty for two or more consecutive months from 2009 to 2011, the median length of a

poverty spell was 6.6 months, up from 5.7 months over the period from 2005 to 2007.

- Approximately 44.0 percent of poverty spells occurring from 2009 to 2011 ended within four months, while 15.2 percent lasted more than 24 months.

- While 35.4 percent of individuals who were in poverty in 2009 managed to escape poverty in 2011, approximately half (49.5 percent) continued to have income below 150 percent of their poverty threshold.

- People 65 and older had lower annual poverty rates than children or working-age adults, but once the elderly entered poverty their median spell durations of 8.3 months were longer than both children and working-age adults.

- People in families with a female head of household had longer median poverty spell lengths than those in married-couple families (8.4 and 5.6 months, respectively).

- Hispanics were more likely than blacks to enter poverty over the course of 2009 to 2011, but also more likely than blacks to exit poverty. Hispanics also had shorter median spell durations, 6.5 months, while the median duration for blacks was 8.5 months. (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Request for Proposals

RFP -14-GOV-043

#### GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals in compliance with NMIAC § § 70-30.3-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals) for the provision of sealed proposals from qualified insurance companies and firms to provide group life insurance coverage in accordance with the scope of benefits identified in the Request for Proposals. The Request for Proposals will be available after December 5, 2013 from the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill Saipan, MP 96950 (670) 664-8080.

Proposals will be evaluated based on four criteria: (1) experience of firm in the provision of group life insurance (25%); (2) financial capacity of firm and its reinsurance partners (25%); (3) proposed coverage (25%); and (4) costs (25%). The Commonwealth is seeking a firm with significant experience in the provision of group life insurance coverage with financial background to provide adequate assurances of coverage capacity and low cost for the requested benefits. These three evaluation factors are summarized in the table below.

Evaluation Factor	
Experience	25%
Financial Capacity	25%
Proposed coverage	25%
Costs	25%

Proposals must be submitted by January 18, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950-1247

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any nonmaterial imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.



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\* Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.  
\*\* Kia Forte LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.





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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

#### Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014.** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

#### Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014.** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER  
Executive Director,  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Manager, Procurement & Supply  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

## Registration for NMC's spring semester begins this Monday

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming spring 2014 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 13, and run through Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during registration week. Late registration is on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014.

Note that new students and returning students (those who did not take courses at NMC during the previous semester) are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. The last placement test date is scheduled for 9am on Jan. 10, 2014. Students may schedule to take the placement tests by contacting acting testing coordinator Queanna Sablan at 237-6774/6790 or visiting the Testing Center in Building I.

New and returning students are also required to attend a student orientation in order to register for courses. It is highly recommended that students confirm which orientation they will be attending by contacting the Sablan at 237-6774/6790 or emailing queanna.sablan@marianas.edu.

After taking the placement tests and attending student orientation, students can meet with their academic advisors, who

will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week.

Ongoing students must obtain registration clearance at the Finance Office, the NMC Library and/or Office of Admissions and Records before they can register for classes. To find out if any holds exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records in Building N or call 237-6768/6769/6771.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)

### IMPORTANT DATES

■ Jan. 10: Early registration for spring 2014 graduation candidates and students under Disability Support Services  
■ Jan. 13: Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000000138 through 000014370  
■ Jan. 14: Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000014371 through

000017530  
■ Jan. 15: Registration for students with PowerCampus ID #s 000017531 through 000019617  
■ Jan. 16: Registration for new, re-admitted, and ongoing students and students with PowerCampus ID #s 000019618 or Higher  
■ Jan. 17: Late registration



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

### ADDENDUM NO. 1

RFP-GOV14-037 – Video Lottery Gaming Site and Associated Services

RFP-GOV14-038 – Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System and Associated Services

RFP-GOV14-030 – Supply of Video Lottery Terminals and Associated Services

The previously advertised notice, Request For Proposals ("RFP") for the "Video Lottery Gaming Site", "Supply of Video Lottery Central Control System", & "Supply of Video Lottery Terminals" has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend proposal submission from January 31, 2014, 4:30 p.m., to April 01, 2014 4:30 p.m. (ChST) or Sixty (60) Calendar days.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Capital Improvement Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. James R. Stump, Contracting Officer at (670)664-2375 or by fax at (670)664-2408.



### PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID  
ITB NO.: ITB14-CHCC-047

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 07, 2014  
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

### "VIP HOUSING UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CEO - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



# COTA gets approval for online reporting system

Joseph Eldredge, National Transit Database, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, informed the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority last month that its application for the National Transit Database online reporting system has been approved.

U.S. Public Law 109-59 requires agencies to submit operating data to FTA in order to qualify for Section 5311 Rural Area grants in future apportionments. NTD is the mechanism FTA uses to collect that data, said Eldredge.

"MAP-21 establishes annual reporting requirements for recipients and beneficiaries of Section 5311 Other than Urban-

ized Area formula grants while maintaining existing NTD Urban reporting requirements for recipients and beneficiaries of Urbanized Area Formula funds," said Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for public transportation and chairman of the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board.

The NTD is the FTA's primary national database for statistics on the transit industry. Recipients of FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Program and Rural Formula Program are required by statute to submit data to the NTD. T

NTD data collection and reporting helps meet the needs of individual public transportation systems, the U.S. government,

state and local governments, and the public for information on which to base public transportation service planning.

The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain a reporting system, using uniform categories to accumulate public transportation financial, operating, and asset condition information and using a uniform system of accounts. The reporting and uniform systems shall contain appropriate information to help any level of government make a public sector investment decision. The Secretary may request and receive appropriate

information from any source.

Each recipient under this section shall submit an annual report to the Secretary containing information on capital investment, operations, and service provided with funds received under this section, including total annual revenue; sources of revenue; total annual operating costs; total annual capital costs; fleet size and type, and related facilities; vehicle revenue miles; and ridership.

NTD began collecting rural transit data in 2006 using a model that was developed in consultation with states. The



Camacho

2007 reporting system was updated to reflect the above data requirements. States receiving Section 5311 funds must report to NTD. Once the CNMI through COTA submits its data to NTD, it establishes hardcore data critical to transit planning and advantageous for the Commonwealth with respect to future FTA funding assistance such as the planned fixed-flex route and ferry boat systems, said Camacho.

For purposes of the NTD, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam,

and the Northern Mariana Islands are treated as states (although the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands do not receive any Section 5311 grants). The state agency, typically the state Department of Transportation administering the FTA Formula Program for Other than Urbanized Areas are responsible for collecting and providing data regarding each Section 5311 subrecipient in the state. The first data report due from COTA's fiscal year 2013 data is Jan. 31, 2014, said Camacho. (*Office of the Governor*)



## CNMI DOL OSHA Consultation Outreach

**Do you have a business? Are you worried that a serious workplace injury could disrupt or even shut down your business? Can't afford to hire a safety consultant? If you are, the CNMI Department of Labor OSHA Consultation Office is your answer to your worries. OSHA On-Site Consultation Program is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL and is perfect for you!**

**OSHA On-Site Consultation Services is separate from enforcement and DO NOT result in penalties or citations.**

**For more information, please call the CNMI DOL OSHA  
Consultation Office at 664-3156/57**

**(670) 287-7531 (Vincent) email: vdcamacho68@gmail.com**

**(670) 287-7533 (Elaine) email: elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com**

**We are here to help you run a safe business.**

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### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSING UNITS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-14

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) invites submission of proposals from qualified individuals or firms to furnish, deliver, and install two (2) Energy Efficient Commercial Air Conditioning Condensing Units at the Port of Saipan, Seaport Building.

The proposal package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning December 13, 2013.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Delivery of Two (2) Energy Efficient Commercial Air Conditioning Units, Project no. CPA-RFP-005-14."

One (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m., LOCAL TIME, January 10, 2014, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile transmission will not be accepted. Any proposals received after the proposal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves that right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposals shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA  
Executive Director



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

### PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF PTZ CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-14

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of PTZ cameras and security and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning January 10, 2014 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of PTZ cameras and Surveillance System, Project No. CPA-RFP-006-14". One original and four copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, February 7, 2014, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., January 23, 2014 at the Port of Saipan Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit may be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Seaport Manager to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the cameras are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Acting Executive Director



# Welcome Home!

PHOTOS by HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



The family of U.S. Army SPC Tiffany A. Santos comes prepared with their “welcome home” banners. The CNMI community welcomed yesterday morning at the Saipan International Airport 15 of 16 CNMI soldiers who just recently came back from their Afghanistan deployment.



Soldiers from the CNMI returning from their Afghanistan deployment are treated to a heroes' welcome at the Saipan International Airport at past 8am yesterday.



U.S. Army SPC Elbert Espayos, left, reacts as he sees his family at the airport.



Families, government officials, and private sector partners, including the Manta Ray Band, patiently wait near the Customs area of the Saipan International Airport for the arrival of the 15 of 16 CNMI soldiers who recently returned from Afghanistan.

SPC Christopher Del Rosario, holding his 2-year-old son, says the welcoming at the airport is overwhelming. It was especially heartwarming for Del Rosario, seeing for the first time his 3-month-old daughter.





U.S. Army SPC Britney Igitol, right, talks to reporters while her father, SPC Ivan Igitol, gets a hug from a relative at the airport yesterday.

PHOTOS BY HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Family and friends of SPC Rita Taitano pose with their "welcome home" sign.



SPC Ivan Igitol gets a hug from a relative.



U.S. Army SPC Britney Igitol is all smiles after receiving a lei from a relative.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos, foreground, leads a private welcoming for 15 of 16 CNMI troops returning from Afghanistan. Joining him were Cabinet members, lawmakers, other government officials, private sector partners and families of the soldiers.



SPC Rita Taitano, right, is overwhelmed by the show of support of family, friends, and Kagman students.



SPC Elbert Espayos prepares for the motorcade.



The Igitol family patiently waits for the arrival of the plane carrying the returning soldiers from the CNMI.



A legislative staffer joins the welcome rites at the airport.



# Renovation of Garapan fish market building underway

The Garapan Fishing Base is expecting a refreshing transformation as it will soon be the host of the new Garapan Public Market. The Department of Lands and Natural Resources received a grant through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Economic Development Initiative Special Projects that was approved for the renovation of the former fish market building for use as a public market.

DLNR, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, issued a notice of bid in early September 2013. Through a competitive bid process, Success International Corp. was awarded the contract for the renovation project. The contractor has been provided with the notice-to-proceed, and the project is now underway.

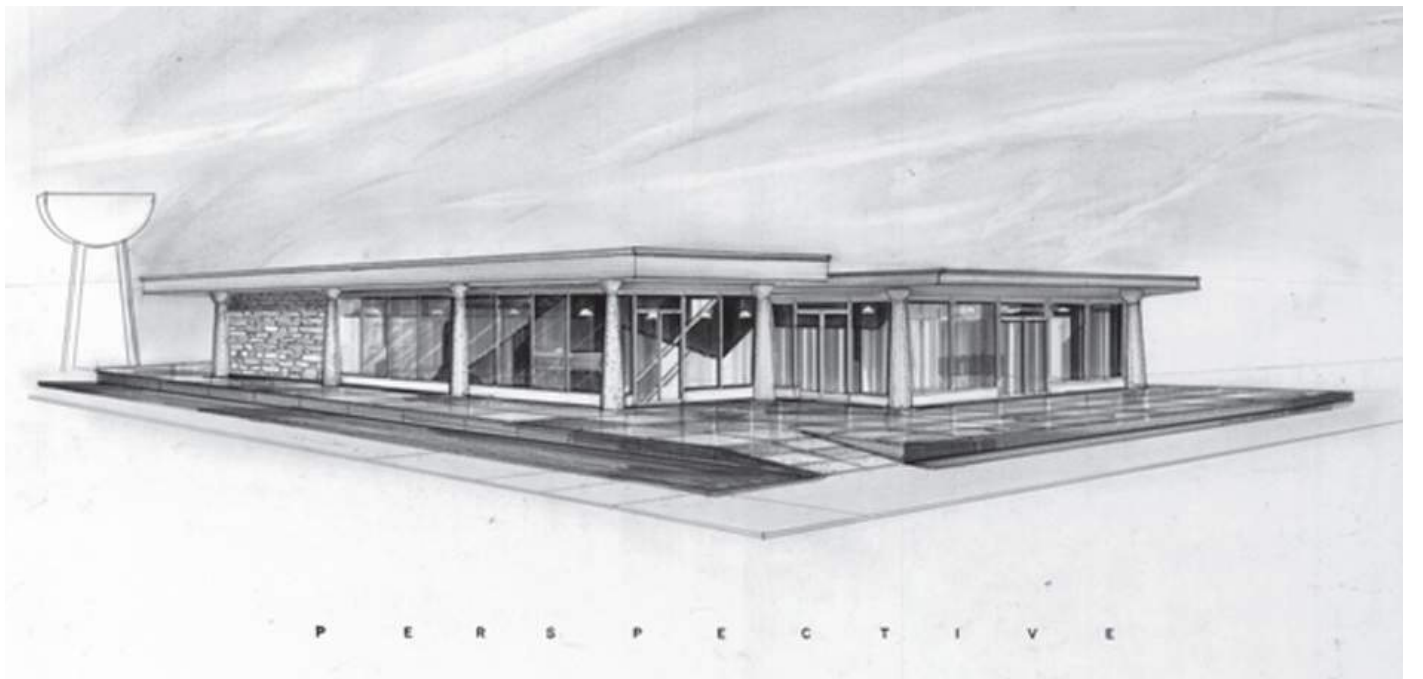
The CNMI has envisioned a permanent public market facility

for many years, and Gov. Eloy Inos has been a strong advocate for the establishment of a public market to benefit farmers, fishermen, and the community. Reflecting on the significant cultural history of the indigenous people, DLNR continues to find opportunities to promote traditional skills and professions such as fishing and farming.

The public market will provide a permanent location for vendors to sell locally grown produce.

DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios expressed his elation that this project is finally underway.

"We are very pleased to move forward with this project as it is important that we continue to support our local fishermen and farmers. We are just beginning, and we are working on plans to expand the project for a full-scale public market," Palacios said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An artist's perspective of the new Garapan Public Market at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The renovation of the 4,000 sq. ft. building will include a

produce display area, loading and unloading area, lounge area,

and 18 new parking stalls. The \$148,000 renovation project is

expected to be completed by April 2014. (DLNR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

University of Guam researchers examine a hive of honeybees.

## UOG researchers conduct honeybee nat'l health survey

Dr. Ross Miller's Entomology Lab at the University of Guam Western Pacific Tropical Research Center has its antennae in a lot of hives with the first ever survey of the island's honeybee population. Honeybee health in the U.S. mainland has been in decline for many years: mites, diseases, and environmental toxins have taken their toll on honeybee populations throughout the states. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, this national survey will look to understand what viruses, mites, pests, or other factors may be influencing honeybee health. With a clearer understanding of what is negatively impacting bee colonies, scientists are hoping to find efficient methods to mitigate this decline.

"The varroa mite has infected bees throughout the country. If Guam can be declared a varroa-

free zone, beekeepers on island may be able to provide queen bees certified to be free of the damaging mite to stateside beekeepers. This could be a potential new apiary opportunity for the island," said Miller.

Bees pollinate many of our favorite foods including cherries, oranges, lemons, cucumbers, blueberries, carrots, almonds, avocados and more. Bees are also important pollinators of forest plants and trees. Pesticide use, habitat loss, genetically modified crops, and global warming have been cited by researchers as playing a role in the declining health of honeybees.

Conducting a survey of this magnitude takes a considerable amount of behind-the-scenes activity and coordination. Research assistant and UOG graduate Chris Rosario has been charged with contacting beekeepers in Guam to inform them of the sur-

vey and schedule times to take samples of their bees and hives.

"I will need to get samples from a total of 24 domestic and feral (wild) colonies from around Guam. My task is to collect a 1/2 cup of bees from each hive," said Rosario. Dressed in his bee suit and armed with a bee smoker, Rosario will also be checking the hives for mites and collecting them if he finds any.

Rosario plans to get a representative sample from bees around the island. He has identified three feral hive sites and is asking that members of the community who know of wild beehives in their neighborhoods and villages to contact him at 487-1640.

WPTRC scientists continue to serve the needs of Guam's people, plants, and animals through securing grant monies and carrying out valuable research. (UOG)

## Bordallo condoles on passing of former Guam delegate Blaz

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued yesterday the following statement on the passing of former delegate Vicente "Ben" T. Blaz.

"I am truly saddened to hear of the passing of Congressman Ben Blaz. Ben was a longtime family friend and was particularly close to my late husband, Ricky," said Bordallo. "Ben was an outstanding leader of our community having served as the first Chamorro to achieve the rank of Brigadier General and was a trailblazer for those in military service. He was elected in 1984 to serve the first of four terms as a Member of Congress representing Guam. He was a distinguished individual whose wartime experience,

knowledge, and passion for Chamorro history made him a great role model through-out generations.

"During my tenure in Congress, he was a strong source of support and guidance on issues important to our community and the people of Guam. I will always be grateful for his presence and participation at our Liberation Celebrations in Washington, D.C. Ben truly lived an American life with the heart of a Chamorro wherever he went. Today, our island has lost a hero, a leader, and a great friend. My thoughts and prayers are with his sons, Mike and Tom, and their families and I join the people of Guam in extending my condolences during this time." (Office of the Delegate)

## Court denies dismissal of alleged fake marriage case

The federal court has denied a motion to dismiss the charges against a woman and a man who were indicted for allegedly defrauding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services by engaging in a fake marriage.

At a hearing on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied Xiaoying Tang's motion to dismiss the charges. The judge stated that she will issue a written decision later.

Joseph Horey, court-appointed counsel for Tang, argued that

the offenses of which Tang is charged with are all premised on the "sham marriage" doctrine, which is stated at the outset of the indictment.

Horey said the doctrine states that "Under the immigration laws of the United States, a foreign-born national married to a U.S. citizen could obtain legal permanent resident status based on that marriage, provided the marriage had been entered into in good faith, intending to establish a life together, and not only for

the purpose of enabling the foreign-born national to obtain legal permanent resident status in the United States."

But for this premise, Horey said, none of the misrepresentations attributed to Tang in this case would have been material to her green card application.

"The premise is constitutionally faulty, thus is the indictment," the lawyer pointed out.

The U.S. government opposed the motion.

The jury trial of Tang will start on Jan. 27.

The indictment charged Tang and Jesse Juan Teigita Dowai with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S., visa fraud, and false document.

Last Dec. 30, Dowai pleaded guilty to count 1 of the indictment charging him with conspiracy to commit visa fraud and to defraud the U.S. The U.S. government agreed to move to dismiss the remaining counts as to Dowai upon sentencing.

Sentencing will be on May 16, 2014. (Ferdie de la Torre)



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Taniscio Kaipat! May you enjoy your day and God bless! Much love from family, especially KaiLin.



Happiest birthday and belated happy birthday to my daughter, Josephine Lizama, and my love, Jacob Lizama. On this day I wish to tell the two of you that you are my world. Much love, hugs and kisses to the both of you. You two are my everything and nothing can take that away from me. I love you guys to the stars and back and I wish you more birthdays to come. From your one and only.



# Search for overboard cruise crewmember suspended

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Wednesday for a 34-year old male Filipino crewmember who reportedly fell overboard from the cruise ship *Grand Princess* approximately 1,133 miles northeast of Hilo.

Two Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane crews from Air Station Barbers Point conducted searches of the area and dropped two Self-Locating Datum Marker Buoys.

The SLDMB is used in search and rescue missions and is equipped with a GPS sensor. Upon deployment in the water, it transmits its location periodically to the Coast Guard to assist with developing search areas.

As part of the AMVER program, the container ship *Horizon Reliance* along with the *Grand*

Princess's sister ship *Star Princess* assisted in search efforts.

More than 4,900 square miles were searched.

Watchstanders at the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu were notified at approximately 12am Tuesday that the 34-year old was overboard.

"Suspending a search is always an incredibly difficult decision to make," said Lt. Justin Gear, a command duty officer of the Coast Guard Joint Rescue Coordination Center. "It's done with much deliberation and after a concerted effort to ensure that the Coast Guard has conducted a thorough search and saturated all probable locations for a survivor. We offer our thoughts and prayers to the family and loved ones." (U.S. Coast Guard)

## Continued detention OK'd for suspected drug pusher

The federal court has ordered the continued detention of Yuan Rong Zhao, a 41-year-old man who was arrested by Drug Enforcement Administration agents on Friday for allegedly distributing methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

At a detention hearing on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause to believe that Zhao has committed an offense for which a maximum prison term of 10 years or more is prescribed.

Manglona also determined that Zhao is a flight risk.

The judge noted that Zhao, a Chinese national, has no ties to the community, has no work or family in the CNMI, and does not have any other interest in re-

maining in the Commonwealth.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy's asked for Zhao's continued detention pending future proceedings.

Court-appointed defense counsel Michael Dotts opposed Badawy's motion.

Preliminary hearing will be on Jan. 16. Zhao was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

DEA agents arrested Zhao after the DEA filed a criminal complaint charging him with one count of distribution of methamphetamine.

A DEA special agent stated in an affidavit that a confidential source managed to buy \$400 worth of "ice" from Zhao outside the latter's home in San Antonio on March 6, 2012. (Ferdie de la Torre)



### MARIANA RESORT DONATES

American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, second from right, receives a \$1,000 check from Mariana Resort & Spa owner and president Yoshihiro Kitami, center, executive chef William Retardo, left, and assistant property manager Charlene Babauta, Wednesday, Jan. 8, in Marpi. The donation will go toward the ongoing relief effort for those affected in the Philippines by Typhoon Haiyan.

ARC

## Spring semester registration at Pacific Islands University this week

Pacific Islands University, a fully accredited institution in Mangilao, Guam, is holding registration for the spring 2014 semester this week. Registration will be on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9 and 10, 2014, from 8am to 5pm at their campus located at 172 Kinney's

Road, Pagat, Mangilao, Guam.

PIU offers fully accredited AA and BA degrees in Liberal Studies and Biblical Studies, as well as a master of arts degree in Religion. Additionally, for those who qualify, PIU offers remedial education courses to help students prepare for col-

lege level courses. Classes are taught in Guam, and online. Students may also register and take classes at PIU's Teaching Facilities in Palau and Yap.

Established in 1976, PIU has been serving the people of this region for nearly 40 years and looks forward to continu-

ing to deliver accessible and transformational higher education to all.

For any questions about registering for classes at PIU, contact the front office at 734-1812. For more information about PIU, visit their website at [www.piu.edu](http://www.piu.edu). (PIU)

## Micronesia summit looks at human trafficking in Pacific



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sarah Thomas-Nededog, vice president, West Care Pacific Islands.

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and Sarah Thomas-Nededog, vice president, West Care Pacific Islands, were invited to speak at the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit held on Dec. 4-6, 2013, on Saipan.

Limtiaco and Thomas-Nededog spoke on the topic "Preventing Human Trafficking in the Pacific Region," and shared information on the Pacific Regional Response to Combat Human Trafficking initiative, which is a collaborative effort among the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, the National District Attorneys

Association, the U.S. Department of State, the Department of the Interior, Guam Human Trafficking Task Force, NMI Human Trafficking Intervention Coalition, and other community partners.

Limtiaco and Thomas-Nededog also discussed the intersection and relationship between human trafficking, sexual assault, child abuse and domestic and family violence, and prevention and enforcement efforts in the Pacific region.

The "Pacific Regional Response to Combat Human Trafficking" initiative employs a multidisciplinary model, including participation, coordination, and collaboration

among law enforcement, prosecution, victim service providers, social services, medical, mental and public health professionals; faith-based organizations, educational institutions, consulates, and other community stakeholders.

The response calls for the establishment and provision of victim services, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, training opportunities, community outreach/ public awareness and prevention programs, and creation of human trafficking task forces and coalitions in the Pacific region island communities. Providing fundamental training in human trafficking, including victimization,

investigation and prosecution, prevention efforts, and other related topics, to stakeholders in the Pacific region island communities is critical to effective prevention and enforcement efforts in the region.

The MCES is composed of the chief executives of Guam, the CNMI, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The governors of each of the Federated States of Micronesia—Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—are also members. The primary purpose of the MCES is to coordinate and implement regional strategies to assist its member jurisdictions. (USAO)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### WSR Elementary School PTSA meeting

The William S. Reyes Elementary School's PTSA board would like to remind the community that its upcoming monthly PTSA meeting is scheduled on Jan. 14, 2014, at the WSR cafeteria at 6pm. Discussions will include implementing the T-shirt/uniform policy as well as the Family Fun Night activities slated for February. We highly encourage parents and guardians to attend this very important meeting. See you there! (PR)

#### CCA general membership meeting

The Commonwealth Cancer Association is inviting the community, cancer survivors, friends, and supporters to the annual general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, at 5:30pm at the CCA conference room.

The agenda will include the president's 2013 annual report. Immediately after the annual report, election of the board of directors will commence. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance via e-mail and/or on the floor.

To submit a board nomination or for more information, call CCA at 682-0050 or email at [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org). (CCA)

#### Red Cross trainings next week

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Thurs., Jan. 16 at 4:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning
- Thurs., Jan. 16 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit [www.redcross.org/take-a-class](http://www.redcross.org/take-a-class). (ARC)



Business

Virtual reality transforms real-life shopping in stores

By HEATHER SOMERVILLE  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

In the not-too-distant future, grocery shoppers wearing Google Glass will see coupons for a new cereal flash before their eyes as they search for Cheerios, while others browsing the dairy section will have information about the health benefits of soy milk pop up automatically on their iPads.

Dozens of big-name retailers—including Bloomingdale's, Victoria's Secret, Tesco, Wal-Mart and Target—already are experimenting with virtual reality, a computer-simulated 3-D environment viewed through a computer screen or wireless glasses, or augmented reality, which uses technology to alter the physical environment by adding sound, images or words to enhance the real-world experience.

Give it a few more years, industry experts say, and the once ho-hum trip to the average store will be radically different.

For consumers, this is mostly good news, experts say. The

technology will give shoppers the power to make better buying decisions and eliminate some shopping irritations. Retailers are using virtual reality to improve store layouts, and companies are creating augmented reality applications for in-store navigation, so shoppers aren't searching up and down aisles for five of the 10 ingredients to make dinner. Shoppers will also be able to try on clothes virtually—no more running in and out of dressing rooms with clothes that don't fit.

"In five years, you will not walk into a retailer and get lost," said Barbara Barclay, general manager of North America for Tobii, an eye-tracking technology company with offices in Mountain View, Calif. "They'll know who you are and what your last shopping experience was. They will know where you're looking on a shelf. The whole shopping experience in five years will be highly personalized."

Much of the new technology has been developed in Silicon Valley, where companies including Accenture, a technology and consulting company



Diana Munoz tries out Accenture Technology's augmented reality shopping app, code-named weShop, at a supermarket near the company's offices in San Jose, Calif., Dec. 18, 2013.

in San Jose, Calif.; Matterport, a Mountain View tech startup and 3-D camera developer; and Tobii have been quietly court-

ing retailers with new products. Some are preparing for mass market rollouts early next year.

"Everyone is interested in

personalizing shopping and augmented reality and virtual reality," said William Brinkman, graduate director of the

Delta to improve passenger comfort on 225 US domestic narrowbody aircraft

» Fleet to receive more than \$770M in upgrades through 2016

Delta Air Lines will invest more than \$770 million through 2016 to refresh the interiors of its Boeing 757-200, 737-800, Airbus A319, and A320 aircraft to provide power at every seat, add new slim-line seats with adjustable headrests, updated lavatories, add more efficient galleys and additional features to improve passenger comfort.

Delta has invested more than \$3 billion since 2010 to improve the customer experience onboard its aircraft and to upgrade technology and facilities. All Delta international widebody aircraft for trans-Pacific routes have been upgraded with direct-aisle access full flatbed seats in the BusinessElite cabin in summer 2013. Delta's fleet of 16 Boeing 747-400 aircraft, 18 Boeing 777 aircraft, and 21 Boeing 767-400ER has been retrofitted with full flatbed seats. The full international widebody fleet of more than 140 aircraft including 58 Boeing 767-300ER and 32 Airbus 330 will be upgraded by mid-2014 and all transcontinental flights will have full flatbed seats in BusinessElite by summer 2015.

Delta has also invested in its

**DELTA**

new Terminal 4 at New York-JFK and Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal in Atlanta. Delta has spent more than \$100 million to expand, renovate, and consolidate terminals C and D at New York-LaGuardia Airport. Additionally, customers have seen Delta's investment in its more than 50 Delta Sky Clubs throughout the system with the installation of power poles in gate areas at more than 40 airports and updates to the popular Fly Delta app, which has been downloaded by nearly 10 million customers.

"We're continuing to make smart long-term investments in our products and services to meet the expectations of our customers," said Glen Hauenstein, executive vice president-chief revenue officer. "In just six years, we will have updated interiors throughout Delta's fleet, giving customers improved comfort and more options to work or relax and be entertained."

This latest capital investment will improve the service consistency provided to Delta's cus-

tomers in first class and economy cabins as well as increase aircraft efficiency and overall customer satisfaction of the airline's domestic narrowbody fleet.

The investments have maintained more first class seats than any U.S. carrier; present more in-flight entertainment options; provide access to Wi-Fi on all domestic two-class domestic aircraft with expansion to its entire international fleet by 2015; offer economy comfort seats on all two-class aircraft to give customers extra legroom; and increase access to power for customers in-flight.

**757-200 aircraft improvements**

Delta's modifications to 56 of its 757-200 aircraft will include installing in-seat video, satellite TV and access to power for every passenger, along with new galleys, updated LED cabin lighting, new lavatory designs as well as larger capacity overhead bins. Delta will be the first carrier in North America to install the new bin system, which will increase passenger carry-on baggage capacity by more than 50 percent.

The 49 modified domestic aircraft will feature a layout of 20 first class seats, 29 economy comfort seats and 150 economy seats. The remaining seven 757-200 international aircraft will have a configuration of 18 first class seats, 28 economy comfort seats and 151 economy seats.

**737-800 aircraft improvements**

The investment in 43 of Delta's 737-800 aircraft will include the addition of in-seat video with satellite TV, new LED cabin lighting and updated lavatories. The aircraft will be configured with 16 first class seats, 18 economy comfort seats and 126 economy seats.

When the modifications are complete, Delta's entire fleet of 73 737-800 aircraft will have in-seat video with access to satellite TV and in-seat power throughout the aircraft.

**A319 and A320 aircraft improvements**

Delta's 57 A319 and 69 A320 aircraft will receive complete interior updates including new seats in both first class and economy cabins with in-seat power throughout the aircraft. The aircraft will also receive

new space-saving galleys, new lavatories, new larger-capacity overhead bins with an average increase of 60 percent more carry-on baggage space, updated LED lighting systems and new cabin interiors. Updates to the A319 fleet will also include the installation of in-seat video with satellite TV.

The A319 will include 12 seats in first class and the A320 will have 16 first class seats. All economy seats on both aircraft types will feature wider seats with an increase from the current 17.2 inches to 18 inches for each seat. Both fleets will have 18 economy comfort seats with 34 inches of pitch. Economy seats will each have 31 inches of pitch on both aircraft with 102 seats on the A319 and 126 seats on the A320.

This announcement builds on Delta's industry leadership in exceeding customer expectations by being the first U.S. airline to allow customer use of portable electronic devices below 10,000 feet, providing more in-flight Wi-Fi than any other airline, introducing the Sky Deck at Delta Sky Clubs in New York-JFK and Atlanta in 2013, being the only U.S. domestic carrier to offer personal,

computer science department at Miami University of Ohio. "They are trying to see what their value is and what they do that Amazon doesn't."

Already, glimpses of this virtual reality retail bonanza have appeared from the Bay Area to Europe. Bloomingdale's recently tested virtual dressing rooms, which let customers "try on" outfits that appear when they are looking at themselves on a large screen.

Accenture has developed an app for Google Glass, the Internet-connected and voice-controlled eyeglasses, that allows customers to explore Toyota showrooms and check out new cars through augmented reality. Glashion, a fashion app for Google Glass, came out of the TechCrunch Disrupt conference in San Francisco in September. Using the app, Glass users can purchase fashion items online as soon as they spot someone else wearing it.

"It's all about understanding how people think," Barclay said. "It's almost like being inside someone's head."

on-demand entertainment at every seat on all long-haul international flights and offering flatbed seating with direct-aisle access across its international widebody fleet by mid-2014.

Delta Air Lines operates multiple daily flights from Guam/Saipan to Tokyo-Narita, Osaka-KIX and Nagoya-Centrair airports in Japan. Delta also operates two to three weekly flights between Palau and Tokyo. At Tokyo-Narita, customers can conveniently connect to an extensive network to and within the United States. The flights to Japan are operated using Boeing 757-200 aircraft and all trans-Pacific flights beyond Tokyo-Narita are operated using widebody aircraft featuring full-flat bed seats in the BusinessElite cabin, economy comfort with more recline and legroom and audio video on demand on all economy seats, with an extensive library of movies, TV shows, music and games.

Delta Air Lines serves nearly 165 million customers each year. Additional information is available on delta.com, Twitter @Delta, Google.com/+Delta, Facebook.com/delta and Delta's blog takingoff.delta.com. (Delta)

STOCK  
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW  
16,462.74  
-68.20  
-0.41%

S&P  
1,837.49  
-0.39  
-0.02%

NASDAQ  
4,165.61  
+12.43  
+0.30%

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7543	Philippine Peso	44.6900
Australian Dollar	1.1265	Singapore Dollar	1.2713
British Pound	0.6074	South Korean Won	1,062.9
Canadian Dollar	1.0833	Swiss Franc	0.9104
Chinese Yuan	6.0550	Taiwan Dollar	30.1210
Euro	0.7355	Thailand Baht	32.9900



# Nation

## Messages tie Christie aide to New Jersey traffic jam

**TRENTON, N.J. (AP)**—A political dirty-tricks investigation of Gov. Chris Christie's inner circle broke wide open Wednesday with the release of emails and text messages that suggest one of his top aides engineered traffic jams in a New Jersey town last September to punish its mayor.

An "outraged and deeply saddened" Christie responded

by saying he was misled by his aide, and he denied involvement in the apparent act of political payback.

The messages were obtained by The Associated Press and other news organizations Wednesday amid a statehouse investigation into whether the lane closings that led to the tie-ups were retribution against the mayor of Fort

Lee for not endorsing Christie for re-election last fall.

"Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," Christie deputy chief of staff Bridget Anne Kelly wrote in August in a message to David Wildstein, a top Christie appointee on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"Got it," Wildstein replied. A few weeks later, Wildstein

closed two of three lanes connecting Fort Lee to the heavily traveled George Washington Bridge, which runs between New Jersey and New York City.

The messages do not directly implicate Christie in the shutdown. But they appear to contradict his assertions that the closings were not punitive and that his staff was not involved.

Democrats seized on the material as more evidence that the potential Republican candidate for president in 2016 is a bully.

The messages "indicate what we've come to expect from Gov. Christie—when people op-

pose him, he exacts retribution. When people question him, he belittles and snidely jokes. And



Christie

when anyone dares to look into his administration, he bullies and attacks," Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz said.

In a statement issued late Wednesday, Christie said: "I am outraged and deeply saddened to learn that not only was I misled by a member of my staff, but this completely inappropriate and unsanctioned conduct was made without my knowledge."

"People will be held responsible for their actions," he added, but gave no details.

Kelly had no immediate comment.

Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich called it "appalling" that the traffic jams appear to have been deliberately created.

"When it's man-made and when it was done with venom and when it was done intentionally, it is, in my mind, the prime example of political pettiness," he said. He said the gridlock put people in danger by holding up emergency vehicles, and he added that those responsible should resign.

While Sokolich is a Democrat, Christie sought bipartisan support during his re-election campaign to bolster his image as a pragmatic leader willing to work with his political opponents.

## Giffords completes skydive on shooting anniversary

**TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)**—Gabrielle Giffords marked the three-year anniversary of an attack that left her severely wounded and forced her to resign from Congress by skydiving Wednesday in a feat that highlights her ongoing recovery after having to learn how to walk and talk again.

Across the city, others gathered for bell-ringing and flag-raising ceremonies to remember the six killed and 13 injured, including Giffords, on Jan. 8, 2011, as the former Arizona congresswoman met with constituents outside a grocery store.

Giffords waved and blew kisses to a crowd at a skydiving site between Phoenix and Tucson after successfully landing without injury.

"Gabby landed beautifully. Happy she's safe. So proud of her bravery," Giffords' husband, former astronaut Mark Kelly, wrote on his Twitter account after the tandem jump with his wife strapped to a professional skydiver.

Jimmy Hatch, a former Navy SEAL who accompanied Giffords along with others, said the group held hands and formed a circle shortly after exiting the aircraft, then made a line with Giffords in the middle.

"She was the least nervous person on the plane," Hatch said, calling Giffords a "rock



AP

Former Arizona U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Tucson, blows kisses to the media, waves, and says "it was wonderful" as she briefly describes her skydiving experience as the SUV she was in drives past media cameras Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in Eloy, Ariz., marking the three year anniversary after she was shot in a mass shooting in Tucson, Ariz., during one of her political events.

star" for making the jump on such an emotional day.

"They did a little moment of silence at the drop zone," he said. "The emotion was really heavy. Then she smiled and said, 'Let's go.'"

Vice President Joe Biden's office said he called Giffords on Wednesday to wish her good luck.

"Gabby's courage & determination has been absolutely inspirational," Biden wrote on his office's Twitter account.

Giffords' jump will be broadcast Thursday on NBC's "Today" show.

In Tucson, about 100 residents attended a ceremony

Wednesday morning outside the University of Arizona Medical Center, where the injured were treated. A bell was rung once for each victim as the Rev. Joe Fitzgerald spoke to the crowd.

"Today, we gather to remember the tragic day three years ago when our community was deeply wounded," he said.

Other ceremonies and moments of silence took place across the city.

"I think the commemorations are, in large part, recognition of our community's collective care and compassion and grit to go on," Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild said.

## Study: Thinking positive helps migraine drug work

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Talk about mind over matter: A quirky new study suggests patients' expectations can make a big difference in how they feel after treatment for a migraine.

Boston researchers recruited 66 migraine patients in an attempt to quantify how much of their pain relief came from a medication and how much was due to what's called the placebo effect, the healing power of positive belief.

More than 450 headaches later, they reported Wednesday that it's important for doctors to carefully choose what they tell patients about a powerful medicine—because the message could help enhance its benefits, or blunt them.

"Every word you say counts, not only every gram of the med-

ication," said Harvard professor Ted Kaptchuk, who led the new study with a team at Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital.

Here's how it worked. First, the patients who suffer regular migraines agreed to forgo pain relievers for several hours during one attack, recording their symptoms for comparison with later headaches.

Then for each of their next six migraines, the patients were given a different pill inside an envelope with a different message. Sometimes they were told it was an effective migraine drug named rizatriptan, a positive message. Other times they were told it was a placebo, a dummy pill, suggesting no benefit. Still other times they were

told the pill could be either one, a neutral message.

Sometimes the doctor's message was true—they were told they got rizatriptan and they really did. Sometimes it was false because researchers had secretly switched the pills.

Mixing up the possibilities allowed researchers to tease out how the same person's pain relief differed from migraine to migraine as his or her expectations changed.

Of course the real migraine drug worked far better than the dummy pill. But remarkably, people who knew they were taking a placebo still reported less pain than when they'd left their migraine untreated, the researchers found.

## Utah mom to give birth to daughter's daughter



AP

In an undated photo Lorena McKinnon, right, feels her mother Julia Navarro's womb for movement of McKinnon's daughter that will be born in about a month.

**PROVO, Utah (AP)**—A 58-year-old Utah woman is set to give birth in a few weeks—to her first grandchild.

Julia Navarro is serving as a gestational surrogate for her daughter and son-in-law after the couple struggled with fertility problems.

Navarro's daughter Lorena McKinnon said she began trying to have a baby with her husband, Micah McKinnon, three years ago.

The 32-year-old Provo woman said she's had about a dozen miscarriages, with the longest pregnancy lasting 10 weeks.

After several tries, the couple began looking for a surrogate. McKinnon said a friend and sister both considered carrying her baby, but ultimately decided against it.

That's when her mother offered to step in.

"As a family, we have to help each other," Navarro told The Salt Lake Tribune ( <http://bit.ly/1a40CaE> ).

Navarro had to undergo hormone shots for three months before an embryo fertilized by her daughter and son-in-law could be implanted. Because of her age, doctors had warned there was only a 45 percent chance the implantation would be successful.

But the procedure was a success, and Navarro said she's had a smooth pregnancy carrying a developing baby girl.

As with other surrogacy arrangements, the couple and Navarro needed three months of counseling.

"The psychologists wanted to make sure we knew what we were getting into—that we were mentally prepared," McKinnon said. "Mostly, surrogacy contracts are with people you don't know. It was weird to have a contract with my mom."

It's unclear how rare it is for a woman to carry her own grandchild, but recent news reports have detailed similar

relationships.

Last year, a 53-year-old Iowa woman gave birth to her twin granddaughters. And in 2012, a 49-year-old woman in Maine gave birth to her grandson.

McKinnon said she was grateful and overwhelmed by her mother's offer, which eases some of the obstacles and financial burdens for parents using a gestational surrogate.

According to Utah law, surrogates must be 21 or older, financially stable and must have already given birth once.

Couples must be married and are allowed to offer a reasonable payment to a surrogate.

On average, a couple can spend about \$60,000 on procedures and paying the surrogate, but McKinnon said her mother's offer to help is saving the couple about half of that.

Both she and her daughter said they've bonded over the experience.

The baby girl is due in early February.



# Asia

## Beijing shows unyielding resolve in its claims on South China Sea

**BEIJING (AP)**—In a broadening campaign to enforce its territorial claims, China says it's beefing up its police powers in the disputed South China Sea and requiring foreign fishermen to ask Beijing's permission to operate within most of the vast, strategic waterway.

The move, which took effect this month, comes on the heels of the late November announcement of a new air defense zone requiring foreign planes to notify Beijing of flights over a huge swath of the East China Sea, where China is locked in a bitter territorial dispute with Japan.

The steps are prompting concerns that President Xi Jinping's push to assert China's role as a

regional power could spark a confrontation with neighbors.

"These sort of assertions of sovereignty, or territorial claims, will continue. Xi believes he can't afford to be seen as soft," said City University of Hong Kong China politics expert Joseph Cheng.

The affected waters account for 2 million of the South China Sea's 3.5 million square kilometers (1.35 million square miles), a sweeping area encompassing island groups claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and others—and in some cases occupied by their armed forces. The islands sit amid the world's busiest commercial sea lanes, along with rich fishing grounds and

potential oil and gas deposits.

Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said Wednesday that the country's diplomats were seeking more information on the new South China Sea rules. There was no immediate response from Vietnam.

The United States says it doesn't take sides in the sovereignty dispute but insists on the right to freedom of navigation in the area.

The new rules demand that foreign vessels seek permission to fish or survey within waters administered by Hainan, China's southernmost island province, which looks out over the South China Sea.

## Afghan girl in bomb plot calls on Karzai for help

**LASHKARGAH, Afghanistan (AP)**—An Afghan girl who says her brother sought to use her as a suicide bomber asked President Hamid Karzai on Wednesday to find her a new home.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the girl known as Spozhmai said she fears that if she returns to her family she again will be asked to blow herself up with an explosives-packed vest. During the interview she called on Karzai to put her "in a good place."

Spozhmai, who authorities say is 10, was detained by police Monday after what they described as a botched attempt to blow up a police checkpoint in southern Khan Nishin district. She is in protective custody in the Helmand provincial capital Lashkargah. Police continue to search for the girl's brother, who they say escaped with the suicide vest.

"If I go back they will do the



An Afghan girl known as Spozhmai is held in protective custody in Lashkargah, capital of Helmand province, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014.

same to me, they will make me wear the suicide vest," Spozhmai told the AP. "I won't go

back there. God didn't make me to be a suicide bomber."

Omar Zawak, a spokesman for the Helmand provincial governor, said Spozhmai's case is being investigated "very carefully and seriously." Zawak said more details may emerge after the girl's father is questioned.

"The governor has appointed a team to investigate the exact information and details," the spokesman said. "We have arrested the father and after we speak with him we will give you more details."

The head of a local human rights group said his group is working with the police and other officials to arrange care for the girl.

"It is a deep concern of the Human Rights Council to save the life of this child because the situation in Helmand and in Khan Nishin district is not very safe for now," Bilal Sediqi said.

Sunil Singh said. TV channels broadcast images of flames leaping out of the windows and lapping at the metal sides of the cars. Five of the victims had suffocated on smoke, while four were burned to death, Railway Minister Kotla Surya Prakash Reddy said.

### Dennis Rodman apologizes for Bae comments

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—Dennis Rodman apologized Thursday for comments about captive American missionary Kenneth Bae in an interview with CNN. A day after the former basketball star sang "Happy Birthday" to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and led a squad of former NBA players in a friendly game, Rodman issued the apology through publicist Jules Feiler in an email message to The Associated Press. "I want to apologize," Rodman said. "I take full responsibility for my actions. It had been a very stressful day. Some of my teammates were leaving because of pressure from their families and business associates. My dreams of basketball diplomacy was quickly falling apart. I had been drinking. It's not an excuse but by the time the interview happened I was upset. I was overwhelmed. It's not an excuse, it's just the truth."

# World

## Iraq: Fighters urged to leave Fallujah

**BAGHDAD (AP)**—Tribal leaders in the besieged city of Fallujah warned al-Qaida-linked fighters to leave to avoid a military showdown, echoing a call by Iraq's prime minister Wednesday that they give up their fight as the government pushes to regain control of mainly Sunni areas west of Baghdad.

The warning came as gunmen attacked an Iraqi army barracks in a Sunni area north of Baghdad, killing 12 soldiers. Seven soldiers were wounded in the assault in Diyala province, authorities said.

The United Nations and the Red Cross, meanwhile, said Fallujah and nearby areas are facing mounting humanitarian concerns as food and water supplies start to run out.

Sectarian tensions have been on the rise for months in Sunni-dominated Anbar province as minority Sunnis protested what they perceive as discrimination and random arrests by the Shi-

ite-led government. Violence spiked after the Dec. 28 arrest of a Sunni lawmaker sought on terrorism charges and the government's dismantling of a year-old anti-government Sunni protest camp in the provincial capital of Ramadi.

Last week, al-Qaida-linked gunmen seized control of Ramadi and nearby Fallujah, cities that were among the bloodiest battlefields for U.S. forces during the Iraq war. The militants overran police stations and military posts, freed prisoners and set up their own checkpoints.

The United States and Iran have offered material help for the Iraqi government but say they won't send in troops.

Speaking in his weekly television address, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki hinted of a possible pardon for supporters of al-Qaida's local branch, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, if they abandon the fight.

"The war that is being fought by the Iraqi security forces, tribes and all segments of Iraqi society against al-Qaida and its affiliates is a sacred war," he said. "I call on those who were lured to be part of the terrorism machine led by al-Qaida to return to reason."

In exchange, he promised that his government will "open a new page to settle their cases so that they won't be fuel for the war that is led by al-Qaida."

Iraq's government has rushed additional troops and military equipment to Anbar and has been carrying out airstrikes in an effort to dislodge the militants.

Skirmishes between Iraqi forces and militants broke out on the outskirts of Fallujah and Ramadi again Wednesday, according to witnesses, and militants blew up a small bridge on the edge of Ramadi, officials in Anbar said. There was no immediate report of casualties.

## Train carrying oil derailed, catches fire in Canada

**PLASTER ROCK, New Brunswick (AP)**—Officials in Canada said a derailed freight train carrying crude oil and propane continued to burn Wednesday, and about 150 residents remained evacuated from their homes. There were no deaths or injuries.

Of the 17 cars that derailed late Tuesday in New Brunswick province, five contain crude oil and four contain liquefied petroleum gas, officials said. Later Wednesday, the Canadian National Railway said two of the cars carrying liquefied petroleum gas and one car carrying crude oil were on fire.

"It is contained, but it is evolving," said Claude Mongeau, the chief executive of CN.

The derailment in a sparsely populated region, roughly 20 miles (32 kilometers) from the U.S. border and northern Maine, again raised concerns about the increasing use of rail to transport oil throughout North America. In July, 47



This aerial photo shows derailed train cars burning in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014.

people were killed in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, when a train carrying crude oil derailed.

A series of recent derailments in North America have worried both officials and residents close to rail lines. On Dec. 30, an oil train derailed and exploded in North Dakota, causing the evacuation of a nearby town but no injuries.

The train's brakes came on unexpectedly, Canada's Trans-

portation Safety Board said based on preliminary information from the rail company and police.

"Preliminary reports were that the train was proceeding, and while proceeding experienced what we call an undesired brake application," said Daniel Holbrook, a manager with the safety board. Holbrook also said the crew found a broken axle.

## Zoo animals get iced treats as Brazil swelters

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)**—Sure, it's mind-bogglingly cold in the Northern Hemisphere. But the sweltering weather on the opposite end of the Earth has man and beast alike dreaming of ice.

Brazil is sizzling, and with the heat index sometimes soaring above 120 F, keepers at the Rio de Janeiro zoo are giving the animals ice pops to beat the heat. The homemade treats come in various flavors. For the big cats, there are bloody, 66-pound (30-kilo) blocks of ice and raw

meat. There are bucket-sized cornucopias of iced fruit for Ze Comeia, a brown bear rescued from a circus, and a supply of chilled bananas for Karla the elephant.

The simians' treats, strawberry or mango-flavored frozen yogurt pops on sticks, looked the most appealing to the crowds of human visitors who stood Wednesday in the blazing sun and 94-degree weather to gape at the apes.

"When I saw them eating them their ice creams, I asked

my parents to get me one, too," said Damaris Pereira Dias, 11, as she licked a rapidly melting treat in Brazil's adored green corn flavor. "It made me really hungry to watch them."

The apes couldn't get enough. Paulinho the chimpanzee reached long, leathery fingers through the bars to snatch a strawberry-flavored treat from zookeeper Karla Cunha's hand, then gobbled it down. He then delicately handed the stick back through the bars—a trick he's learned wins another ice pop.

### ASIA BRIEFS

#### Filipinos jam capital for huge Catholic parade

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Hundreds of thousands of Filipino Catholics have begun a raucous religious procession in Manila to honor a centuries-old black statue of Jesus Christ in an annual event that organizers say was being held partly to pray for the victims of a monster typhoon that ravaged the central Philippines last year. Officials say 6,000 policemen were deployed Thursday to secure the massive, daylong procession, a security nightmare due to the presence of Muslim extremists and widespread crimes in the country. Officials say up to 12 million devotees may join but such figures are difficult to independently confirm.

#### Indian train catches fire before dawn, killing 9

**MUMBAI, India (AP)**—Fire and smoke engulfed three cars of an Indian passenger train early Wednesday, killing nine people as they slept in the latest tragedy to hit the country's vast railway network, officials said. Authorities were trying to determine what caused the fire to break out before dawn, just hours after the train left Mumbai on a 48-hour journey to the Himalayan foothill town of Dehradun, Western Railways spokesman



# Off the Wall

## Naked Aussie freed from washer with olive oil

**SYDNEY (AP)**—A naked Australian man who became stuck in a washing machine as part of an ill-planned practical joke was freed from the appliance with the help of an unusual rescue device: olive oil.

The 20-year-old man, identified only as "Laurence," told Australia's Fairfax Radio that he was on his way to take a shower on Saturday when he decided to climb into the top-loader to have a bit of fun. The fun quickly

evaporated, however, when he realized he couldn't budge.

He called out to his friend for help, who rang the police. They responded to the scene, along with firefighters, paramedics and a search and rescue squad.

"He was very well wedged in there and we were concerned for his health and well-being," Shepparton police Sgt. Michelle De Araugo told the Shepparton News. "It was just a game gone wrong. It would be fair to say

the gentleman was very embarrassed." Rescuers tried in vain to pull Laurence from the machine. But when it became clear he was seriously stuck, they grabbed a bottle of his favorite olive oil to help lubricate his escape. The oil

worked, and he popped out.

"I was quite disappointed they used my good olive oil," Laurence told Fairfax Radio. "As soon as the washing machine went on its side, it was a bit like a birthing."

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Diapers in dump truck trigger radioactive alarms

**VIENNA (AP)**—Austrian hazmat specialists called in after Geiger counters showed alarmingly high readings for a dump truck arriving at an incinerator have found the problem—radioactive adult diapers. After unloading the truck, firefighters from the hazardous materials unit of the city of Linz found nearly two dozen diapers from a hospital that had become contaminated with radioactive iodine. The substance is swallowed during some medical and diagnostic procedures. While radiation levels were substantially above normal, unit leader Dieter Jonas says no one was in danger during Tuesday's incident. Austrian officials, however, are tracing the truck's route. And the truck will stay in a metal container at the incinerator for eight days—the time it takes for the emissions to reach safe levels.

#### It's even too cold for polar bears in Chicago

**CHICAGO (AP)**—It's even too cold for Chicago's resident polar bear. The city's Lincoln Park Zoo says its polar bear, Anana, was kept inside Monday because of the record-low temperatures. Zoo spokeswoman Sharon Dewar says that while the below-zero weather might be comparable to what polar bears experience in the wild, Anana doesn't have a thick layer of fat that bears typically get from eating things such as seals and whale carcasses. That extra insulation would make it uncomfortable to live in Chicago during the rest of the year, so Anana gets a different diet. While she stayed inside, Anana lounged in her comparatively balmy indoor climate that's kept at 40 to 50 degrees. Anana usually has access to both an indoor and outdoor area. She'll be allowed to venture outside Tuesday.

#### Pa. pizza shop delivers medicines during cold snap

**LIGONIER, Pa. (AP)**—A western Pennsylvania pizza shop has been delivering prescription medicines and other supplies to ill and elderly residents so they don't have to go outside in the bitter cold. Tom Wynkoop, owner of Fox's Pizza Den in Ligonier, tells WPXI-TV that he tweeted his offer because his community about 45 miles east of Pittsburgh has a lot of elderly residents. Wynkoop told those in need to call his cellphone to arrange deliveries of prescription medicines and other products—no strings attached. That's right: Folks don't have to order food from Wynkoop's shop to get help. Wynkoop says his shop has made four deliveries. He says, "You have to be there for your residents." The region was hit with record-low, subzero temperatures on Tuesday. Temperatures were subfreezing by Wednesday.

#### Arizona officials seize 2 tigers from backyards

**PHOENIX (AP)**—Arizona wildlife officials have seized two tigers that were being kept in backyards in the Phoenix area. The Arizona Game and Fish Department received reports Dec. 27 about a man posting pictures of himself with his two pet tigers online. Game and Fish biologist Randy Babb says the first tiger was found rope-tied in a Phoenix backyard on New Year's Eve. The second tiger was located three days later in suburban Gilbert and was being kept in a large dog kennel. Both tigers are about 8 months old, 200 pounds and appear to be in good health. Babb says they'll be taken to live at a wildlife preserve in Prescott. Officials say the animals' owner will be cited when he's located because Arizona prohibits the possession of all wild carnivores.

#### Fugitive who left shoe at crime scene arrested

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Federal agents have apprehended a fugitive near San Antonio two years after he left a shoe behind while allegedly trying to storm a Colorado home with others. Mario Andreas Godinez was arrested Tuesday by the U.S. Marshals Service on a charge of attempted murder. The 20-year-old was being held at the Bexar County jail awaiting extradition to Weld County, Colo. Service spokesman Chris Bozeman says Godinez and two others are accused of attempting a 2012 home invasion in Greeley, Colo. When they were unable to get inside, Godinez allegedly shot through the front door. He left behind a shoe when the trio fled in a vehicle. Bozeman says the shoe could be an important part of prosecution efforts. Godinez was arrested at a home outside San Antonio.

## Group unveils devil statue design for Oklahoma

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)**—A satanic group unveiled designs Monday for a 7-foot-tall statue of Satan it wants to put at the Oklahoma state Capitol, where a Ten Commandments monument was placed in 2012.

The New York-based Satanic Temple formally submitted its application to a panel that oversees the Capitol grounds, including an artist's rendering that depicts Satan as Baphomet, a goat-headed figure with horns, wings and a long beard that's often used as a symbol of the occult. In the rendering, Satan is sitting in a pentagram-adorned throne with smiling children next to him.

"The monument has been designed to reflect the views of Satanists in Oklahoma City and beyond," temple spokesman Lucien Greaves said in a statement. "The statue will also have a functional purpose as a chair where people of all ages may sit on the lap of Satan for inspiration and contemplation."

The Satanic Temple maintains that the Oklahoma Legislature's decision to authorize a privately funded Ten Commandments monument at the Capitol opened the door for its statue. The Ten Commandments monument was placed on the north steps of the building in 2012, and the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has sued to have it removed.

Similar requests for monuments have been made by a Hindu leader in Nevada, an animal rights group and the satirical Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

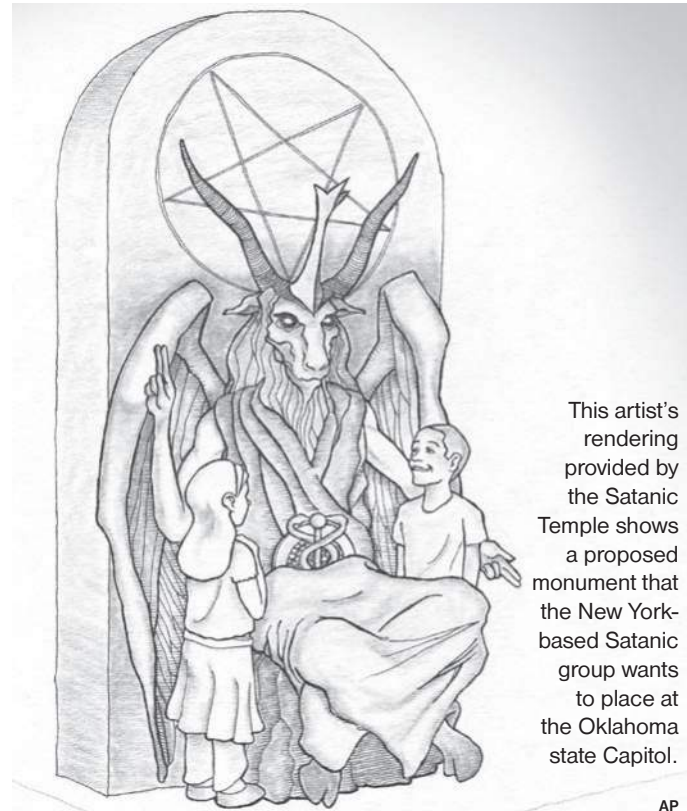
In response, the Oklahoma Capitol Preservation Commission recently placed a moratorium on considering any new requests.

"Anybody can still make their request, but we'll hold off on considering them until the lawsuit is adjudicated," commission Chairman Trait Thompson said.

The push by the Satanic Temple has rankled elected leaders in this conservative state known as the buckle of the Bible Belt, who say such a proposal would never be approved by the commission.

"I think you've got to remember where you are. This is Oklahoma, the middle of the heartland," said Rep. Don Armes, R-Faxon. "I think we need to be tolerant of people who think different than us, but this is Oklahoma, and that's not going to fly here."

While Greaves acknowledges the Satanic Temple's effort is in part to highlight what it says is hypocrisy of state leaders in Oklahoma, he says the group is



This artist's rendering provided by the Satanic Temple shows a proposed monument that the New York-based Satanic group wants to place at the Oklahoma state Capitol.

AP

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT



## †Cornelio Taitano Castro

*Lovingly known as "Nelung"*

Husband of Joaquina Villagomez Castro  
Born to Life on September 26, 1938, was called to his eternal rest on January 06, 2014, in Houston, Texas.

Mass of intention is offered daily at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am and at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm.

The arrival of his remains and funeral service will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers.

*Thank you*

**The Family**



## Life & Style

# Sandra Bullock sweeps the People's Choice Awards

By JESSICA HERNDON  
AP FILM WRITER

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Sandra Bullock reigned supreme at the 40th annual People's Choice Awards, taking home four trophies as the evening's top winner.

The actress was named favorite movie actress, comedic actress, dramatic actress and shared the favorite movie duo award with "Gravity" co-star George Clooney. Bullock's buddy comedy, "The Heat," co-starring Melissa McCarthy, was awarded favorite comedic movie.

Fans deemed Ellen DeGeneres their favorite daytime TV host, making her the woman who has gained the most People's Choice Awards with a total of 14 trophies.

"As a young girl growing up in New Orleans, if anyone would have told me I was going to win 14 People's Choice Awards I...I mean 12, yes. 13, maybe. But 14?" joked DeGeneres, host of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," who said that she wanted to make the show for everyone from old, young, black, white, guy and straight.

"Iron Man 3" scored three awards including favorite movie, action movie and the film's star, Robert Downey Jr., channeling Iron Man in his acceptance speech, received the favorite action movie star honor.

Justin Timberlake also nabbed three awards. Among them was the favorite album accolade for "The 20/20 Experience." In a sweet moment, he thanked his "beautiful wife," Jessica Biel, "for teaching me

patience and the little things like just putting the dishes in the dishwasher. It goes a long way. Fellas, you're welcome."

Katy Perry, who was not at the show, scored the win for favorite video for the third year in a row, following up last year's award for "Part of Me" and 2012's honor for "Last Friday Night" with her hit "Roar" this year.

A pregnant Drew Barrymore, who joked that DeGeneres had called her fat backstage, presented her "Blended" co-star Adam Sandler with the comedic movie actor award.

After debuting her talk show "The Queen Latifah Show" in 2013, fans crowned Queen Latifah their favorite new talk show host.

Ian Somerhalder and Nina Dobrev, the stars of "The Vampire Diaries," earned the award for best on-screen chemistry at the People's Choice Awards. The duo, who had their round of break-ups and make-ups on-screen and off, joked about their coupledness.

"The good thing is chemistry," said Dobrev, with her arm around Somerhalder, who she is no long romantically attached to. They managed to make a would-be awkward moment entertaining by addressing their buzz-worthy pairing head-on.

Shemar Moore heavily hit on fellow presenter Malin Akerman, cracking jokes about ebony and ivory and saying he didn't see a ring on her finger. She played right along, leaning in as the crowd cheered them on.

Stephen Colbert won the favorite late night talk show host



Sandra Bullock, winner of the Favorite Movie Actress, Favorite Dramatic Movie Actress and Favorite Comedic Movie Actress poses in the press room at the 40th annual People's Choice Awards at Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in Los Angeles.

award, Britney Spears picked up the favorite pop artist honor,

and Kaley Cuoco received the favorite comedic TV actress

prize as well as the favorite TV comedy award, along with

the rest of the cast of "The Big Bang Theory."

Sara Bareilles performed her hit "Brave," country star Brad Paisley took the stage to sing "The Mona Lisa" and OneRepublic sang "Counting Stars."

Jennifer Hudson was the show's second humanitarian award recipient for her work with children via her Julian D. King Gift Foundation. Bullock gained the show's first humanitarian award in 2013 for her efforts in storm-ravaged New Orleans.

Accompanied on stage by her sister Julia, Hudson, holding back tears, accepted the favorite humanitarian award. "My mother always taught us without family you have nothing," Hudson said. "Whether you know it or not, we all are family. What happens to the other happens to us. It's one thing to be a celebrity and have power, but it means nothing if we're not making a difference and helping someone else. It feels good to see positivity acknowledged. Where we come from all you hear about is who shot who and who went to jail. There is more to life than the block you live on. We want to show them that I came from the same area and if I can do it, you can do it too."

LL Cool J presented Hudson with the award. The Oscar-winning actress created the Chicago-based Julian D. King Gift Foundation with her sister, Julia Hudson, in honor of her nephew, Julian King, who was murdered in 2008 at the age of 7.

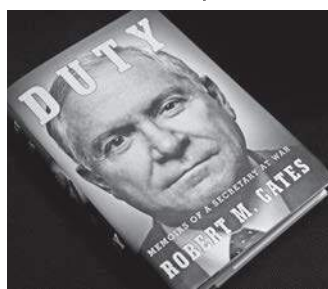
"2 Broke Girls" stars Kat Denning and Beth Behrs hosted the show at the Nokia Theatre.

## White House defends itself, Biden over Gates book

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Rushing to curb political fallout, the White House pushed back Wednesday against harsh criticism in a new book by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates that questions President Barack Obama's war leadership and rips into Vice President Joe Biden.

The tell-all memoir from Gates has created a splash in Washington, casting a negative light on Obama's national security operations by detailing a high level of discord among the small team that made key decisions about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. For two key participants—Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—the accusations could color how the two potential 2016 presidential candidates are viewed by voters.

Initially caught off guard by the book's accusations, Obama's aides walked a fine line between publicly rebuking his former defense chief and allowing Gates' claims to go unchallenged.



Still, the White House hurried to Biden's defense and said the president disagrees with Gates' characterization.

White House spokesman Jay Carney disputed several of Gates' points individually but said Obama appreciated Gates' service. He said those who have the privilege to serve at high levels make their own decisions about whether and when to divulge details of private conversations after they leave government.

"I'll leave it to other folks to decide," Carney said.

In the book, "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary of War," Gates accuses Obama of having little resolve for his own strategy in

Afghanistan and of presiding over a national security team in which military leaders were treated with suspicion and career staffers brushed aside as decisions were centralized among a small cadre of White House advisers.

But Gates reserves his most sweeping indictment for Biden. Despite praising Biden's integrity and personal sense of loyalty, Gates asserts that the vice president "has been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

The White House moved quickly to dispel that notion, issuing a statement calling Biden a "leading statesman of his time" and echoing the sentiment before television cameras.

"I don't think anybody who has covered us or knows the president and the vice president, knows how this White House functions, has any doubt about the president's faith in Vice President Biden as an adviser and counselor," Carney said.

## Chris Brown rejects plea deal in DC assault case

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Lawyers for singer Chris Brown told a judge Wednesday that he has rejected a plea deal on a charge that he hit a man outside a Washington hotel.

Prosecutors had offered a deal in which Brown would plead guilty to the misdemeanor assault charge he faces. One of Brown's lawyers, Danny Onorato, said outside of court that attorneys rejected the deal because Brown is not guilty.

Brown's lawyers said in court that they expect a trial date to be set at another hearing, scheduled for Feb. 20. Brown did not speak during the hearing, which lasted less than 10 minutes. He wore a charcoal three-piece suit and had dark hair, not the bleached blond hair he had sported when he was arrested in October along with his bodyguard, Christopher Hollosy, who also faces an assault charge.

The R&B singer was arrested after a man said the singer struck him outside the W Hotel when he tried to get in a picture Brown was taking with two other people. Hollosy is also accused of striking the man, and his lawyer says he rejected the same deal that Brown was offered.

Prosecutors said in court they will be turning over substantial video surveillance shortly but did not say what it shows.

At the time Brown was charged in Washington, the Grammy winner was on probation in California for a 2009 attack on singer Rihanna, his then-girlfriend. As a result of the new charge, a judge in December revoked Brown's probation in California, but the ruling didn't alter a requirement that Brown complete rehab and community service including roadside cleanup and graffiti removal.

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**47 RONIN [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
(400 PM)

**47 RONIN 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
705 PM 1025 PM

**GRUDGE MATCH [CC,DV] (PG-13)**  
715 PM

**THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY [CC,DV] (PG)**  
(415 PM) 1010 PM

**HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG [CC,DV] (NR)**  
(330 PM) 1020 PM

**HOBBIT: THE DESOLATION OF SMAUG 3D [CC,DV] (NR)**  
700 PM

**FROZEN [CC,DV] (PG)**  
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# Timberlake, Thicke have top-selling album, song

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Justin Timberlake and Robin Thicke owned 2013 in music.

Nielsen Entertainment announced late Tuesday that Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience" was the top-selling album with 2.4 million units sold. Thicke's ubiquitous "Blurred Lines" was the best-selling song with 6.4 million tracks sold.

Albums sales were down. Only 289.4 million albums were sold in 2013, compared with 316 million a year before. Single tracks also saw a decrease, by 6 percent. Streaming, however, was up 32 percent with 118.1 million streams. The sales figures include data from YouTube, Spotify and other digital outlets. Baauer's "Harlem Shake" topped the year with 489,674,000 streams.

New releases from Eminem and Luke Bryan rounded out the top three albums. Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' "Thrift Shop" and Imagine Dragons' "Radioactive" placed second and third on the singles list.



Justin Timberlake, winner of the Favorite Album, Favorite Male Artist and Favorite R&B Artist awards poses in the press room at the 40th annual People's Choice Awards at Nokia Theatre L.A. Live on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in Los Angeles.

## Portrait of man's late wife clouds couple's life together

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend of two years, "Clint," recently brought a large framed picture of his deceased wife into our home. He placed it on his dresser in front of framed photos of us together.



His wife died three years ago. We are living together in a condo Clint bought for me. He made it clear from the beginning that he didn't want to move me into "her house."

*Dear Abby*

Clint also still wears his wedding ring. He carries guilt and doesn't seem to have made closure. I told him I don't feel comfortable with her picture "looking at us." He doesn't think there should be a problem. Should I move on?

IN THE SHADOWS

**DEAR IN THE SHADOWS:** That Clint still wears his wedding ring tells me he may not have accepted his wife's death. How sad for him.

Ask him to move his wife's picture to a room other than the bedroom because, while he doesn't think it's creating a problem, it is creating one for YOU. If he can't bring himself to do that—and join a grief support group—then you should consider moving on.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Enough with the problems! It's time you printed a positive letter.

I'm an active, friendly senior who lives alone, but I'm not lonely. I have many friends of all ages and a devoted family. Why? Because as I traveled through many states during my life, I reached out to people along the way.

The saying, "If you want a friend, be a friend," is true. If we want friends, we can't sit back and wait for people to come to us. Smile, speak up, pay a sincere compliment—just communicate! If you do, the majority of people will respond positively.

I socialize with people my age in church circles, card clubs and dining-out groups who can't understand why I'm always so busy. They don't reach out except to people they already know. As people get older, that group is constantly shrinking. Join a religious group, community clubs and organizations. Volunteer to read at schools and libraries. Visit a senior group or center.

Many people of all ages fear they won't be accepted. But if they show up with a friendly attitude, they will be. You have to contribute—whether it's with a smile, an opening remark or some other welcoming gesture.

I served in the military, taught Sunday school, led Girl Scouts, garden clubs, church and neighborhood groups while following my husband through eight states and raising three children. My husband was often away in his business, but we had a strong, supportive marriage. He joined me in many activities when he could be home.

I think many people have forgotten we must give in order to get. When we reach out to others, most of the time those people reach back.

NOT LONELY IN WOODSTOCK, ILL.

**DEAR NOT LONELY:** It's easy to see why you have a wide circle of friends. Your positive energy leaps off the page.

There are two types of people in the world: those who come into a room and their attitude says, "Here I am!" and those who come into a room and their attitude says, "There you are!" You are one of the latter. If people want a warm welcome, they should keep in mind that the happier they are to see others, the happier others will be to see them.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Insane Clown Posse sues feds over gang label

## Motion picture academy to honor film lab employees

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The motion picture academy is honoring employees of film laboratories with an honorary Oscar.

The move by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences comes at a time when the digital medium is overtaking film. It marks the first time the organization is collectively recognizing a group of individuals with an Academy Award of Merit.

The motion picture academy said Wednesday that this year's other Scientific and Technical Awards recipients will include visual effects supervisor and director of photography Peter W. Anderson and distribution executive Charles "Tad" Marburg.

Anderson, whose credits include "Cocoon" and "The Hunt for Red October," will receive the Gordon E. Sawyer Award for technological contributions that have brought credit to the industry, while Marburg will receive the John A. Bonner Medal of Commendation for outstanding service and dedication in upholding the high standards of the academy.

The academy will honor 19 scientific and technical achievements in total at its annual Scientific and Technical Awards on Feb. 15.

Portions of the Scientific and Technical Awards presentations will be included in the Academy Awards broadcast on March 2.

**DETROIT (AP)**—The Insane Clown Posse sued the U.S. Justice Department on Wednesday over a 2011 FBI report that describes the rap-metal duo's devoted fans, the Juggalos, as a dangerous gang, saying the designation has tarnished reputations and hurt business.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit in Detroit federal court on behalf of the group's two members, Joseph Bruce, or Violent J, and Joseph Utsler, or Shaggy 2 Dope. It also names four fans as plaintiffs.

The FBI report on criminal gangs labeled the Juggalos as a "loosely organized hybrid gang." It said those who identify as Juggalos have committed assaults and vandalism, and a "small number" of them have engaged in more serious crimes.

**'Modern Family' cast heading to Australia to film**  
**NEW YORK (AP)**—Typically one sign a TV series is doing well is if there's a budget to travel and film on location. By that definition, "Modern Family" is doing extremely well - the cast is heading across the globe.

Qantas Airlines says it is part-

The lawsuit contends that the gang designation violates free speech and due process rights.

"It is a quintessential civil liberties case challenging government abuse," said Michael Steinberg, the legal director of ACLU Michigan.

At a news conference in Detroit, Bruce, 41, and Utsler, 39, wore their trademark face paint. The Detroit-area pair said Juggalos are like a family, not a gang, and they want their fans purged from the report.

"Our merchandise sales are just about cut in half. ... You don't see the stickers in the back windows anymore because everyone's afraid to wave the flag in their car," Bruce said. "They're afraid they're going to get pulled over and harassed."

He said law enforcers "just fear

what they don't understand."

Juggalos have lost custody of children, lost jobs and been denied housing because they're fans, Bruce said.

Saura Sahu, an attorney for the group, called the government's depiction of the Juggalos absurd.

"What would it be like if the Department of Justice decided to brand all Deadheads, not just as criminals but as criminal gang members because some of them used or even sold drugs?" Sahu said, referring to fans of The Grateful Dead. "I think we would all think that's ridiculous."

Scott Gandy, 28, of Concord, N.C., is one of the four fans who are suing. He said he wanted to join the Army, but was told by a sergeant that he couldn't apply without removing or covering Insane Clown Posse tattoos.

ning with the show's production company, 20th Century Fox Television, to fly the cast to Australia next month for a two-week shoot of the ABC comedy.

"Modern Family," now in its fifth season, has aired previous vacation episodes that were

filmed in Hawaii and Wyoming.

In a statement, show creator Steve Levitan says: "We promise to feature a kangaroo, a koala and a boomerang."

"Modern Family" airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m. EST on ABC.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Show inspired by Tupac Shakur songs heads to B'way

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A musical inspired by Tupac Shakur songs is going to bring gangsta rap to Broadway. Producers said Wednesday that "Holler If Ya Hear Me" will open at the Palace Theatre in June under the direction of Kenny Leon, who helmed the Broadway hits "Fences" and "The Mountaintop." The new musical sets Shakur's music to an original story. Rapper and actor Shakur, who had multimillion-seller albums like "2Pacalypse Now" and

"All Eyez on Me," was known for his raw lyrics that drew on the rage of a coarse urban existence. No casting was announced. The musical has a story by Todd Kreidler, who was a dramaturg for "Radio Golf" and "Gem of the Ocean," and choreography by Tony Award-winner Wayne Cilento of "Wicked." Afeni Shakur, the late artists' mother, is producing.

### Trucks, Haynes leaving Allman Brothers Band

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Warren Haynes and Derek Trucks are leaving the Allman Brothers

Band at the end of the year. A statement released by the band's spokeswoman Wednesday says the guitarists are leaving the rock band to spend more time with their families and work on other musical projects. Haynes joined the group in 1989, while Trucks became a member in 1999. The Allman Brothers Band is set to perform Friday in a tribute to Gregg Allman at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Ga. The band is also scheduled to celebrate the group's 45th anniversary in March with 10 shows at the Beacon Theatre in New York.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



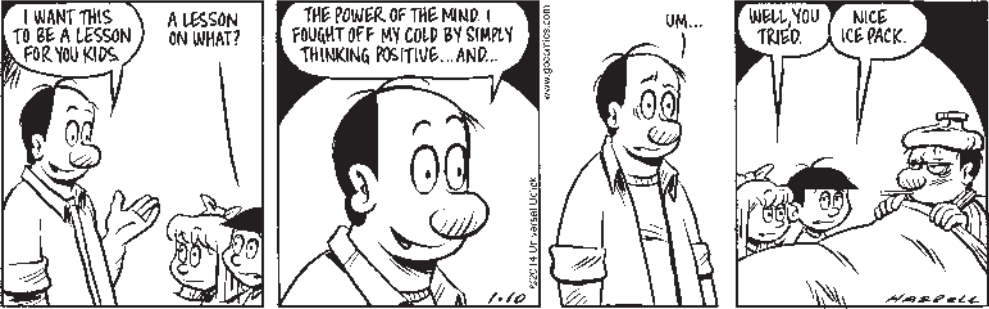
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



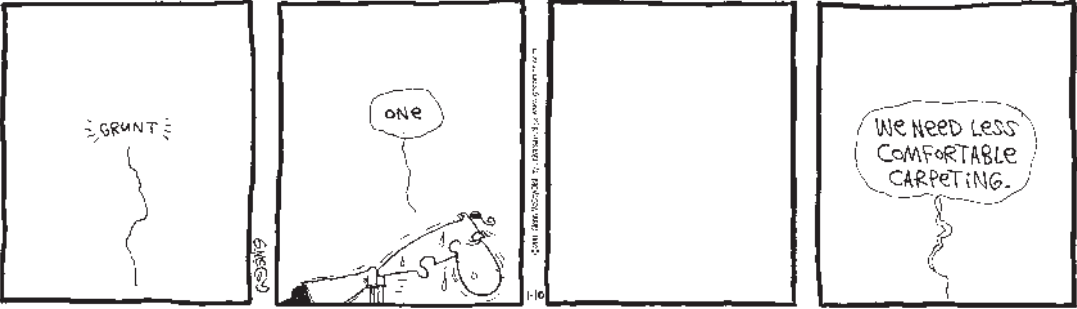
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 [Uncorrected]

4 Loathe

8 Money supply

12 Geological time

13 Came to earth

14 Sandwich treat

15 Utensil made from a gourd shell

17 Bound

18 Line of symmetry

19 Seckels and Anjous

20 Trip around the world?

22 Crafty

24 Roll up (like a flag)

25 CPA's concerns

29 "Most Wanted" org.

30 In all

31 Fuss

**DOWN**

16 Leaf-stem angle

19 Stage show

20 Does in, mob style

21 Hayseed

22 Cardiff's country

23 Troubles

25 Heft

26 Anti-itch lotion

27 Perfect place

28 Drench

30 Snitch

33 Millionth of a meter

34 Jack

36 Portable liquor bottle

37 Bridge

38 Unadulterated

39 Hence

40 Singer

42 Demure

43 "SNL" alumna

44 Afternoon social

45 Nevertheless

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

S	L	I	M	B	I	B	U	S	E	D
W	A	D	I	A	R	E	N	A	V	E
A	V	O	N	N	E	T	A	R	E	S
M	A	L	I	G	N	W	O	R	D	
M	I	N	U	S	T	E	R	M	I	N
A	L	U	M	P	E	N	R	I	G	A
I	I	J	A	R	R	O	A	S	T	
M	A	S	T	E	R	K	E	Y	S	
A	R	T	S	R	F	T	A	I	L	
J	U	N	E	L	A	G	R	U	B	E
O	R	C	A	E	G	O	U	R	I	S
B	L	E	D	Y	E	T	M	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer 1-10

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Evan Handler, 53; Pat Benatar, 61; George Foreman, 65; Rod Stewart, 69.

**Happy Birthday:** Where there is a will, there is a way, and you'll stop at nothing until you get what you want. Your determination and passion will outshine any competition you face. Travel and communication, however, must be dealt with carefully. Injury and insult is apparent if you don't proceed with caution and do your best to avoid arguments. Your numbers are 4, 10, 19, 21, 33, 37, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Look straight ahead and don't stop until you have completed everything on your to-do list. Don't let interference sidetrack you. Step away from anyone who is unpredictable or posing a problem. Focus, achieve and conquer. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You've got what it takes to succeed so don't wait for things to happen; be the instigator. An industrious attitude will give you the clout you need to get others interested in what you are doing. Romance should make your day complete. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** A change of scenery will give you something to think about. Look at locations that have something to offer personally and professionally. Don't limit the possibilities. Expand your current plans. A private matter is likely to be revealed. Defend your principles. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Offer what you can, but don't take on responsibilities that will stand between you and your goals. It's important that you leave room for social-

izing and sharing with someone you love. An idea you have will bring you good fortune. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Being tight-lipped will help you avoid controversy with peers or superiors. Put your effort into your work, not the uncertainty going on around you. Consider what you enjoy doing that may have potential to lead to greater prosperity. Sell your ideas. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Self-improvement, making a difference to others and dealing with the young and the old in your circle will bring you the greatest satisfaction. Relationships can take an unusual turn if you add a little romance into the mix. Let happiness transpire. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Size up your situation at home and look for alternatives that will best suit your needs. Don't let anyone bully you into something you don't want to do. Put more emphasis on your surroundings and making them stressful and more convenient. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Set your sights on whatever will make you happy and head in that direction. Let your thoughts be heard and your intentions laid out for those involved in your plans. Put love and romance at the top of your list. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Re-evaluate what you know and how you are using your knowledge and skills. You may want to make a couple of adjustments if it will help you receive what you are worth. A

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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move, change of location or more diverse marketing will pay off. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Time spent with those you like to collaborate with the most personally or professionally will help you make an important decision regarding your future. An impulsive individual will be a warning of what's to come. Choose wisely. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Charity begins at home. Before you rush off to help others, you must take care of your needs first. You can make adjustments to your residence that will encourage you to pursue a goal you have yet to accomplish. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Sharing your thoughts will help you make a good decision regarding your attributes and how best to use them to get ahead. Contracts and settlements can be made and promises will be honored. Ask and you shall receive. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are impulsive, aggressive and intense. You are dedicated and focused. Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9				5				
	3		9		1		6			
					3					
	4		6		5		8			
		5				4				
	7		3		9		2			
				9						
	2		7		6		3			
		1				9				

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4
6	5	4	9	3	7	1	2	8
9	7	8	1	2	4	6	5	3
4	8	5	6	1	9	3	7	2
3	9	1	7	4	2	8	6	5
7	2	6	3	8	5	4	1	9
1	3	2	4	9	6	5	8	7
8	6	7	2	5	3	9	4	1
5	4	9	8	7	1	2	3	6

**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PLANS** Solution: 7 letters

L R S P H O N E Y L E M I T E  
A G I T P I R T M N W E P N S  
C T N A A A A I I W W M G S E  
O I D I P R L L P D O I T T L  
L R R S W E T Y M R N N N U C  
D E I H A O R O P E O A S C I  
E T V G H E T O C O M G S K H  
B S E A T O V N Y D L B R E E  
T O R T R E A L R A I I E A V  
A O A I R T E I O W T C R M  
L B S H S T V L D C S H C Y P  
F T A I O E I U F A K I G H L  
S U S M W F E F A S O O V I E  
L S E A T S L E T O H R U D H  
A R Y L F R A C C I D E N T A

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Accident, Advisor, Assistance, Battery, Boost, Ditch, Driver, Driveway, Dues, Engine, Fast, Flatbed, Fleet, Fuel, Help, Highway, Hotels, Hotline, Lift, Local, Lockout, Member, Mileage, Motorists, Overhaul, Phone, Policy, Program, Prompt, Remotely, Repair, Road, Safe, Sand, Snow, Spare, Start, Stuck, Timely, Tire, Towing, Travel, Trip, Vehicles, Winch  
Yesterday's Answer: Bond  
The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase online at wonderword.universaljclick.com or call 1-800-642-6490. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/10  
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Music Teacher (1)  
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**REFUNDS**

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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# Green rallies Suns to 104-103 win over Wolves

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—The Phoenix Suns did what they've done all season—come from out of nowhere to win a game it appeared they had lost.

After Goran Dragic and the Suns burned the Minnesota Timberwolves with a stunning comeback, Kevin Love torched some of his teammates.

Dragic had 26 points, nine assists and six rebounds, and Gerald Green's baseline jumper with 3.9 seconds completed a rally from six points down with less than two minutes to play in a 104-103 victory over the Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

The Suns (21-13) closed the game on a 7-0 run for maybe their most improbable win in a season full of them. Channing Frye scored 22 points and hit five 3-pointers and Green finished with 14 points for Phoenix, which was playing the second game of a back-to-back and is still missing starting guard Eric Bledsoe.

"We just have confidence in each other and I think we just want to continue to play our way of basketball," Frye said.

The Timberwolves have no such thing right now.

Kevin Martin scored 20 points, but his runner at the buzzer clanked off the rim. Nikola Pekovic and Love combined to shoot 10 for 36 and the Timberwolves failed to get over .500 on their seventh straight try.

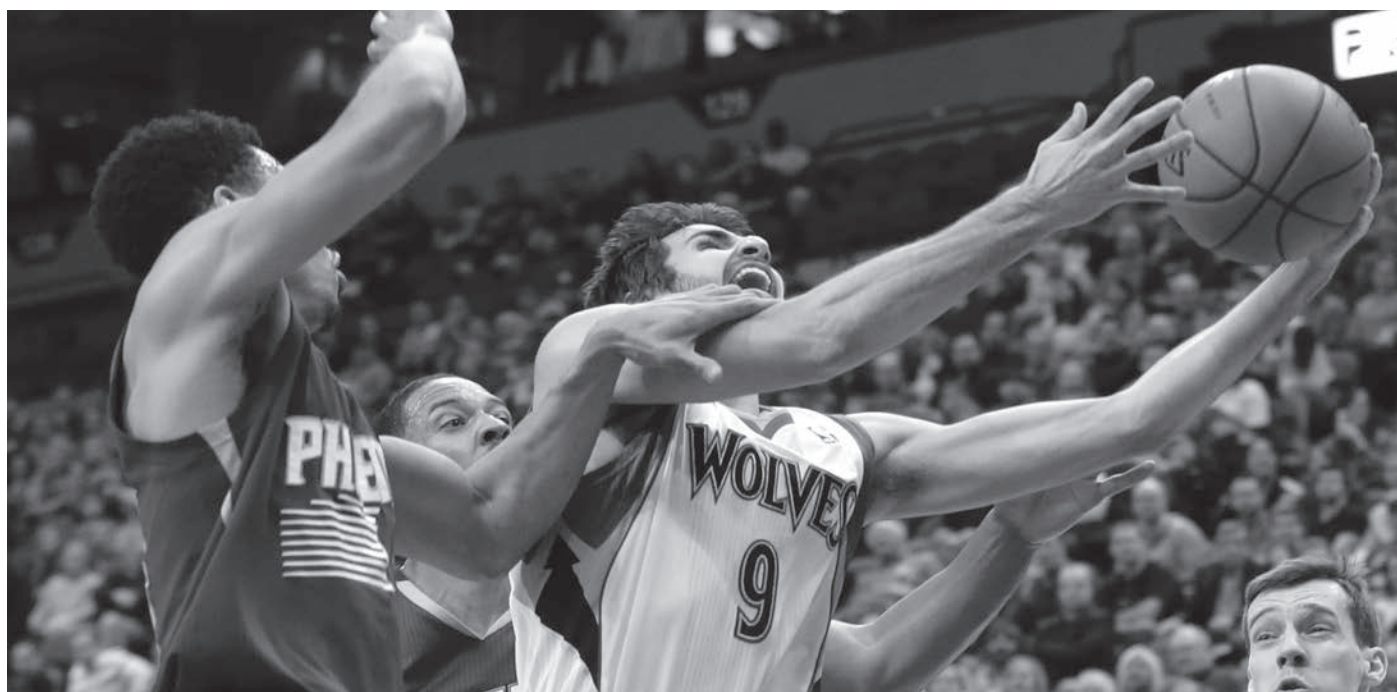
They are 0-10 in games decided by four points or less this season, but the thing that troubled Love most was seeing J.J. Barea and Dante Cunningham sulking at the end of the bench in the final quarter.

"We all need to be in this together," Love said. "That kind of (ticks) me off. We're supposed to be a team."

Love didn't call out either veteran by name, but the body language for Barea and Cunningham in the fourth made them easily identifiable.

"If and when I did that last year when maybe I didn't sit out for the game for all 48 minutes and so on and so forth, they would have killed me," Love said, referring to him missing many games last year with a broken hand. "They would've aired me out. That's tough. It's two guys that we expect more from them. I think they expect more from themselves."

The Wolves led by nine with



Minnesota Timberwolves' Ricky Rubio (9), of Spain, attempts a layup as Phoenix Suns' Gerald Green grabs his arm in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, in Minneapolis.

4:16 to play and were up 103-97 with 1:36 to go. But as is usual in this unlikely season in Phoenix, the Suns never gave in. P.J. Tucker hit two free throws, Dragic scored off a steal, Markieff Morris hit another freebie and Green, the former Timberwolves flop, hit a jumper with the shot clock winding down to seal it.

The Wolves committed three turnovers in the final minute, the last on an errant pass from Ricky Rubio that gave the Suns the ball with 16 seconds to go.

"I think we play better with our backs to the wall, but I don't think nobody in this locker room wants to ever be in that situation," Green said. "We want to finish out games better."

Love had 15 points on 4-for-20 shooting with 12 rebounds and Pekovic had 17 points on 6-for-16 shooting with 12 boards.

Miles Plumlee had 11 points and nine boards before fouling out and Marcus Morris had 10 points and five boards for the Suns, who just keep surprising people.

Martin had his 20 points early in the third quarter and Corey Brewer's activity on defense and ability to get out in transition keyed a 30-19 period for the Wolves, who were rattled in the first 24 minutes by the Suns' rugged defense and the way the game was being called.

Love and coach Rick Adelman picked each other up technical fouls for arguing with the officials, and the Timberwolves' star missed 10 of his 12 shots in the first half. Pekovic

didn't fare much better, going 1 for 8 from the field and having all kinds of difficulty with Plumlee's athleticism in the paint.

The Suns had plenty to complain about themselves. But they never got rattled. And it paid off.

"They kept their composure," Suns coach Jeff Hornacek said. "They didn't get panicked. They made some stops. That's the key. We really buckled down at the end. They were kind of scrambling there."

## Nets 102, Warriors 98

In New York, Joe Johnson scored 27 points in the Brooklyn Nets' season-high fourth straight victory that snapped the Golden State Warriors' 10-game winning streak and prevented the first 7-0 road trip in NBA history.

Kevin Garnett scored 11 of his 13 points in the final quarter and stole Stephen Curry's pass with the Warriors down three in the final half-minute.

Shaun Livingston made the tiebreaking free throw with 1:12 left when he appeared to get away with hooking Curry, then Johnson made four in a row for just enough breathing room to allow the Nets to remain unbeaten in 2014.

Curry scored 34 points for the Warriors, who were bidding for a franchise-record 11th consecutive victory. But until Curry's jumper with 5.8 seconds to go, they didn't make a field goal after Klay Thompson's 3-pointer with 4:07 remaining that gave them a 93-89 lead.

Tuesday.

Knicks coach Mike Woodson spoke directly about Smith's antics on ESPN New York 98.7 FM on Wednesday.

"I've always said I don't condone things that I know you shouldn't do," Woodson said. "No, I'm not happy about this. He was warned, he

## Hawks 97, Pacers 87

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver scored 17 points, Pero Antic added 16 and Atlanta raced to a big lead before holding off weary Indiana and beating the team with the NBA's best record.

The Hawks snapped a three-game losing streak and extended Indiana's misery at Philips Arena, where the Pacers (28-7) haven't won since 2006. They dropped their 12th in a row in Atlanta, the team's longest active road losing streak against any team.

Indiana looked very much like a squad playing its fourth game in five nights and also had dealt with travel issues because of the arctic weather. The Pacers managed just 12 points in the first quarter and 32 in the opening half—both season lows.

Paul George led Indiana with 28 points.

## Clippers 111, Celtics 105

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 29 points, Jamal Crawford added 26, and Los Angeles defeated Boston to improve to 16-3 at home.

Jared Dudley scored 18 points and Darren Collison had 15 points, six assists and five rebounds in place of the injured Chris Paul. DeAndre Jordan had 11 points and 13 rebounds in giving Clippers coach Doc Rivers a second win over his old team this season.

Los Angeles improved to 12-10 without Paul in the lineup since he arrived in 2011. He's out six weeks with a separated right shoulder.

comes back and he makes the same mistake, it's not right. I just got the information, I'm going to address it [Thursday] when he comes in here for work. It's unacceptable. It really is. It's unprofessional. That's the only word I can use. ... You can't do that. You just cannot do it. ... At the

Jordan Crawford and Avery Bradley scored 24 points each in Boston's sixth straight loss overall and ninth in 10 games. The Celtics have dropped six in a row on the road while continuing to struggle without the injured Rajon Rondo, who has a torn ACL in his right knee.

## Spurs 112, Mavericks 90

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 25 points, Tim Duncan had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and San Antonio never trailed in cruising past Dallas.

Marco Belinelli had 17 points, Kawhi Leonard added 12 points and Patty Mills scored 11 for San Antonio (28-8), which recaptured the Western Conference's best record ahead of Oklahoma City (27-8).

Monta Ellis had 21 points and Vince Carter added 14 points. No other player scored in double figures as the Mavericks lost their seventh straight to the Spurs.

Dirk Nowitzki was limited to eight points, shooting 3 for 14 and making his only two free throws attempts.

Both teams were on the second night of a back-to-back, with San Antonio winning in overtime at Memphis and the Mavericks topping the Los Angeles Lakers in Dallas.

## Rockets 113, Lakers 99

In Houston, James Harden tied a season high with 38 points and Dwight Howard added 20 points and 13 rebounds to propel Houston past Los Angeles.

Howard got his first win against his former team as the

Rockets used a big third-quarter run to take the lead and send the injury-riddled Lakers to their third straight loss.

The Rockets trailed by a basket in the third quarter before going on a 17-2 run to take an 80-67 lead and roll to win.

Harden continued his recent torrid scoring with his third straight 30-point game. He has piled up 113 points in the last three games combined.

Nick Young scored 25 points to lead Los Angeles, and Pau Gasol and Jodie Meeks scored 21 each.

## Trail Blazers 110, Magic 94

In Portland, Ore., Nicolas Batum had 14 points, 10 rebounds and a career-high 14 assists for his fourth career triple-double and Portland handed Orlando its fifth straight loss.

LaMarcus Aldridge kept Portland in it despite a sluggish start and finished with 36 points and nine rebounds. The Blazers, who came in having lost four of their last six, avoided a season-high three-game losing streak.

Arron Afflalo had 22 points for the Magic, who were without center Nikola Vucevic. He sustained a concussion in a loss to the Clippers on Monday and is day to day.

## Wizards 102, Pelicans 96

In New Orleans, Trevor Ariza scored 21 points, John Wall added 20 and Washington beat New Orleans to win for the sixth time in its last seven road games.

Bradley Beal added 17 points, Jan Vesely 12 and Marcin Gortat and Nene 11 each for the Wizards, who recorded their second road win in as many nights.

Eric Gordon scored 23 points and Anthony Davis 21 for the Pelicans, who were coming off a four-game road trip that saw them endure a two-day delay in Indianapolis because of the winter storms that paralyzed air traffic this week.

## Raptors 112, Pistons 91

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 21 points and nine assists, Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Toronto handed slumping Detroit its sixth consecutive loss.

DeMar DeRozan shook off a slow start to finish with 19 points and Terrence Ross had 17 for the Raptors, who went 31 for 34 from the free throw line to snap a two-game skid and win for the sixth time in eight games.

Amir Johnson had 10 points and 11 rebounds for Toronto, which leads the Atlantic Division.

Brandon Jennings had 22 points and Rodney Stuckey returned after missing the previous three games with a sore right shoulder to score 14 for Detroit, which has not won since a 115-92 victory at Cleveland on Dec. 23. The Pistons have dropped eight of nine overall.

## NBA fines Knicks' Smith \$50K for repeated shoelace stunts

After a warning proved insufficient, the NBA fined Knicks guard J.R. Smith \$50,000 on Wednesday for "recurring instances of unsportsmanlike conduct" after he twice tried to untie an opponent's shoelace during games this week.

Smith successfully untied

the shoelace of Mavericks forward Shawn Marion during New York's 92-80 victory over Dallas on Saturday. The NBA then warned Smith not to repeat the action, but he attempted to untie the shoelace of Pistons forward Greg Monroe during New York's 89-85 victory over Detroit on

Tuesday. Knicks coach Mike Woodson spoke directly about Smith's antics on ESPN New York 98.7 FM on Wednesday. "I've always said I don't condone things that I know you shouldn't do," Woodson said. "No, I'm not happy about this. He was warned, he

comes back and he makes the same mistake, it's not right. I just got the information, I'm going to address it [Thursday] when he comes in here for work. It's unacceptable. It really is. It's unprofessional. That's the only word I can use. ... You can't do that. You just cannot do it. ... At the

end of the day, he's got to grow up. These things have got to stop."

Smith issued an apology on Wednesday afternoon.

"Huge apologies to my team, to the league [and] most of all you the fans," Smith wrote on Twitter. ([www.si.com](http://www.si.com))



# No taint: Maddux, Glavine, Thomas reach BB Hall



**NEW YORK (AP)**—A new generation of starting pitchers and a self-proclaimed Mr.

Clean of the Steroids Era will be ushered into baseball's Hall of Fame this summer. For tainted players, however, the doors to Cooperstown remain bolted.

Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and Frank Thomas were elected on their first ballot appearances Wednesday, when Craig Biggio fell just two votes short.

Maddux and Glavine will join their former Atlanta Braves manager, Bobby Cox, at the July 27 induction along with Joe Torre and Tony La Russa, also elected last month by the expansion-era committee.

But Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and other stars whose accomplishments were muddled by accusations of steroids use lost even more ground, dropping below 40 percent in an election where 75 percent is needed.

And on his first day as a member of baseball's elite, Thomas said the living members among the 306 Hall of Famers don't want those with sullied reputations.

"Over the last year, doing a couple of charity events with Hall of Famers that are in, they've got a strong stance against anyone who's taken steroids. They do not want

them in. They don't care when they started or when they did it, they do not want them in," he said. "I've got to take the right stance, too. No, they shouldn't get in. There shouldn't be cheating allowed to get into the Hall of Fame."

Making their second appearances on the ballot, Clemens dropped from 37.6 percent to 35.4 in voting by senior members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America, Bonds from 36.2 to 34.7 and Sosa from 12.5 to 7.2.

Bonds, baseball's career home run leader, is the only seven-time MVP in major league history. Clemens is the lone seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

"As for what they did, I don't think any of us will ever really know," Thomas said. "But I can just tell you, what I did was real and that's why I've got this smile on my face right now because the writers, they definitely got it right."

Mark McGwire, appearing for the eighth time, fell from 16.9 to 11 percent—down from a peak of 25.6 in 2008. Rafael Palmeiro will be dropped from future ballots after falling to get 25 votes and 4.4 percent—below the 5 percent threshold necessary to remain eligible. One voter submitted a blank ballot.

"I can go home and sleep at night and rest," Thomas said,



Chicago White Sox slugger Frank Thomas smiles as he listens to a question during a news conference about his selection into the MLB Baseball Hall Of Fame Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago.

"so I don't have to worry about all the nonsense that the other people are going through, because I know I won't be getting a call in the middle of the night from someone saying, oh, he did this or he did that."

Miami Herald columnist Dan Le Batard, saying interested fans were more qualified than voting reporters, said he turned his ballot over Deadspin.com, which allowed readers to vote on how it should be cast.

"I hate all the moralizing we do in sports in general, but I

especially hate the hypocrisy in this," Le Batard said in remarks posted by Deadspin. "I always like a little anarchy inside the cathedral we've made of sports."

BBWAA Secretary-Treasurer Jack O'Connell declined comment.

Maddux and Glavine become the first primarily starting pitchers to enter the Hall whose careers began after Bert Blyleven, who debuted in 1970. Maddux reached the major leagues in 1986 and

Glavine a year later.

They also are the first teammates on a starting rotation to be elected together since 1946. Add in Cox, and the induction will be dominated by Braves.

"It's fitting, given the influence those two guys had on my career," Glavine said. "The thing that would have disappointed me the most had it not happened would have been a lost opportunity to go in with Bobby and Greg."

Maddux, eighth on the career list with 355 wins, was picked on 555 of 571 ballots. His 97.2 percentage was the eighth-highest in the history of voting.

Glavine, a left-hander with 305 victories, appeared on 525 ballots and received 91.9 percent. Thomas, who hit 521 homers, is the first Hall of Famer who spent the majority of his career as a designated hitter. He was at 478 and 83.7 percent.

Maddux and Glavine will be the first pair of living 300-game winners to be inducted in the same year.

"It's exciting for me to go in with my teammate," Maddux said.

Biggio received 427 votes and 74.8 percent, matching Nellie Fox in 1985 and Pie Traynor in 1947 for the smallest margin to just miss. Traynor made it the following year, and Fox was elected by the old Veterans Committee in 1997.

Biggio, who spent his entire career with the Houston Astros, appeared on 388 ballots last year in his initial appearance—when writers failed to elect anyone—and appears to be on track to gain election next year.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed to come that close," he said in a statement. "I feel for my family, the organization and the fans. Hopefully, next year."

Mike Piazza had 62.2 percent, up from 57.8 last year. Jack Morris was 78 votes short at 61.5 percent in his 15th and final appearance on the writers' ballot, a drop from 67.7 percent. Morris replaces Gil Hodges (63 percent in 1983) as the player with the highest percentage of the vote not in the Hall. Lee Smith dropped to 171 from 272 last year, his percentage falling to 29.9 from 47.8.

Next year's vote will be even more crowded when Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, John Smoltz, Carlos Delgado and Gary Sheffield become eligible, five years after their retirements. The steroids group appears to creating a logjam.

Glavine, a leader of the players' union in the 1990s, wants to view how opinions evolve.

"I understand what's going on right now, and I think in time it's going to be interesting to see if the feeling on all those guys changes at all," he said.

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# Sand Juvy Navy Hill rules Tuesday B Bud Light Cup

Sand Juvy Navy Hill For Fun secured the Bud Light Cup in the Tuesday B division of the 2013 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League after beating Oleai Dartaholics in the finals last Tuesday, 8-5, at the Oleai Beach Bar.

Sand Juvy Navy Hill prevailed in three of the four games in the singles wild and crazy cricket/random cricket, got two victories each in partners 701 open in double out and singles Burma, and added one more from the partners regular cricket to top the 10-team field.

The eventual Bud Light Cup champion won the postseason title after losing the top spot to

SOS Mix blood Shooters II in the regular season. The Top 2 finishers squared off early in the Bud Light Cup last Dec. 7 with Navy Hill prevailing to set up a second round match against Sand Juvy Gilas Boyz. Navy Hill went on to notch its second victory in the postseason tournament to march into the semifinals versus Oceanside's Allen Pride, which eliminated Naked Fish Na'Gupu II.

The division champion then extended its streak after ousting Oceanside in the semifinals to set up a title showdown against Dartaholics, which pulled off upsets over Jonny's Naught Boyz and Joe's Serial Killaz. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**



Sand Juvy Navy Hill For Fun players pose for a photo before playing Dartaholics in the finals of the Bud Light Cup of the SEDA league last Tuesday night at the Oleai Beach Bar.

## Manziel leaving Texas A&M for NFL draft

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
AP SPORTS WRITER

Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel declared for the NFL draft on Wednesday following two spectacular seasons in which he became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy and helped the Aggies make a splash in their first two years in the Southeastern Conference.

"After long discussions with my family, friends, teammates, and coaches, I have decided to make myself available for the 2014 NFL draft," Manziel said in a letter posted online by the

university. "The decision was not an easy one, but we all felt this was the right time to make the next step toward a professional career."

Some NFL draft analysts have Manziel ranked as high as the third overall pick in mock drafts.

In a style befitting his record-setting career, Manziel led the Aggies to a 52-48 come-from-behind win over Duke in the Chick-Fil-A Bowl on New Year's Eve in his final college game. Texas A&M trailed 38-17 at halftime before Manziel guided them to the victory by finishing with 382 yards passing



In this Dec. 8, 2012 file photo, Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel gestures as he talks to reporters after winning the Heisman Trophy in New York.

with four TD tosses and 73 yards rushing and another score.

"In all of my years of coaching, Johnny Manziel is the most exciting football player I have ever seen," A&M coach Kevin Sumlin said. "We appreciate everything he has done for Texas A&M and Aggie football and wish him nothing but the best."

Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman in 2012 after setting numerous school and SEC records while leading Texas A&M to an 11-2 record and a victory over No. 1 Alabama in its first season in the SEC.

His dynamic play created a frenzy and pushed him into a stratosphere of celebrity that few college athletes have reached.

doubles game and dropping his singles match.

Ren partnered with Patrick Findlay and they shut out Talen Andrews and Lachlan Graetz, 6-0, 6-0, to advance in the quarterfinals against the top-ranked pair of Timothy Karpinski and Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith. In the singles event, Ren, who survived a qualifying tournament, bowed to No. 5 pick Alex Kevill in the opening round of the main draw, 0-6, 1-6.

sive goal, Shirley's FC had no problems in hitting its target, cruising to a 7-0 victory over the Women's National Team. Kosuke Sato drilled five goals for Shirley's while Louis Ryu Hoin logged the two others.

back-to-back baskets, followed by Jomac Manzano's point-blank shot that moved Agape within 2, 11-13.

A triple from Darag brought order back to MHS, which kept control of the match in the remaining minutes of the first half and were never threatened in the second.

### Varsity Game

**MHS 82** – Espinosa 16, Galdon 13, Factor 11, Kwon 8, Mendoza 7, Ano 7, Cayading 5, Capuyon 4, Malonzo 4, Iglecias 3.

**Eucon 52** – Yu 43, Li 4, R. Wang 3, Ren 1, Zheng 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-17, 38-26, 56-40, 82-52.

That began to cause problems since Manziel, who is from Kerrville, Texas, still had three years of eligibility remaining.

He followed his Heisman-winning season with a high-profile offseason of road trips to Las Vegas and the NBA Finals. Manziel met Heat star LeBron James and rapper Drake, and he posted some tweets that made headlines. One that brought the ire of Aggie fans was when he said he "couldn't wait" to get out of College Station.

### TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

#### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	17	17	.500	—
Brooklyn	14	21	.400	3½
Boston	13	23	.361	5
New York	12	22	.353	5
Philadelphia	12	23	.343	5½

#### Southeast Division

Miami	27	8	.771	—
Atlanta	19	17	.528	8½
Washington	16	17	.485	10
Charlotte	15	21	.417	12½
Orlando	10	25	.286	17

#### Central Division

Indiana	28	7	.800	—
Chicago	15	18	.455	12
Detroit	14	22	.389	14½
Cleveland	12	23	.343	16
Milwaukee	7	27	.206	20½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	28	8	.778	—
Houston	23	13	.639	5
Dallas	20	16	.556	8
New Orleans	15	19	.441	12
Memphis	15	19	.441	12

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	27	8	.771	—
Portland	27	9	.750	½
Denver	17	17	.500	9½
Minnesota	17	18	.486	10
Utah	12	25	.324	16

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	25	13	.658	—
Golden State	24	14	.632	1
Phoenix	21	13	.618	2
L.A. Lakers	14	22	.389	10
Sacramento	11	22	.333	11½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## CAJIGAN

From Page 28

bracket, the top-ranked Kelly Gilmour is in the quarterfinals, along with the No. 8 Charlie Hargreaves, No. 4 Angelina Teakaraanga, and No. 6 Hayla Rafei.

In the girls U12 doubles event is also in the quarterfinal round with the tandem of Lee and Kim bagging one of the Round of 8 berths. Lee and Kim marched

## KFAS

From Page 28

gained its fourth goal to bring the gap back to 3. Lee handed KFAS the insurance goal in the 59th.

The deficit was then sliced

into the next round after sweeping the Japanese pair of Mirano Osaki and Honoka Yoshimura, 6-0, 6-1, in the top half of the bracket. With the victory, Kim and Lee arranged a quarterfinal duel against the top-ranked duo of Gilmour Teakaraanga and results of their game last night were unavailable at press time.

In the boys U16 singles, the event had its Round 2 matches yesterday with Cajigan pulling off an upset against the fourth-

down to two anew with Miller completing a hat-trick in the 81st. However, that was also the last goal of Tan Holdings FC, as KFAS picked up its defense and Miller became a marked man in the remaining minutes of the match.

ranked Josiah Roach. Cajigan, who advanced to the main draw after earning two wins in the qualifying tournament last Wednesday, needed three sets to stun his favored opponent. Roach drew first blood, 2-6, but failed to get the job done, as Cajigan swept the last two sets, 6-1, 6-4.

With the first round upset, Cajigan was pitted against fellow unseeded player Andres Urrego-Varon in Round 2 yes-

In the two other games last Sunday, Shirley's FC and Inter Godfather notched victories in contrasting fashions.

Inter Godfather's eked out a 1-0 win over MP United. Thanks to Ryu Tanzawa's late goal in the first half.

points and the rest of the Blazers were held to a field goal and two charities, while MHS drew at least 6 markers apiece from three players and four also lit up the scoreboard. By the end of the third, MHS registered a 16-point lead, 56-40, and then completely took over in the fourth to start its bid this season on a winning note.

The Dolphins finished runner-up to Tinian High School last season. The Stallions notched back-to-back championships last year after edging the Dolphins in the finals, 84-78.

In the junior varsity division, MHS also leaned on the depth of its roster to down the Torchbearers.

## DOLPHINS

From Page 28

against Agape Christian School, 33-24.

A much deeper bench powered MHS to the 30-point victory, as 10 of its 12 players made it to the scoreboard, voiding the explosive debut of Eucon's Allen Yu. Yu exploded for 43 points in a nearly one-man show for the Blazers.

The Eucon captain nailed all the team's 17 points in the first quarter, which ended with Eucon up by only a deuce. While Yu carried Eucon on his shoulder in the opening canto, the Dolphins shared the load early with eight players scoring in

that period.

Yu continued hitting successive baskets for Eucon in the second quarter, however MHS countered with its balance offense to take the driver's seat and end the first half with a double-digit spread, 38-26. Yu logged the Blazers' first 6 points, while Rafael Wang drilled the other field goal for Eucon in the second frame. On MHS' side, Michael Espinosa matched Eucon's entire output and four of his teammates chipped in at least 3 points each.

The Dolphins kept their even distribution of points in the third period to move ahead further, while the tireless Yu kept his hot shooting. Yu gained 11 more



# 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Community Badminton Club's Mykki Caracut receives a shot near the net during a game in the 7th Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.



Community Badminton Club's Janelle Pangilinan makes a return from the backcourt.



Golden Racquets' Cheng Saturno has all eyes on the shuttlecock.



Community Badminton Club's Jen Savellano tip-toes for a return.



Community Badminton Club's Jester Caranto goes up for a smash.



Shirley's Badminton Club's Toshi-ko Obata goes for a slice.



Community Badminton Club's Andreau Galvez serves.



Spectators watch Taga Badminton Club's Lani Santos stretches for a return.



Taga Badminton Club's Merlie Tolentino bends for a return while her teammate looks on.



Saipan Badminton Club's Rowena Sison hits a backhand return





**Green rallies Suns to 104-103 win over Wolves**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**No taint: Maddux, Glavine, Thomas reach BB Hall**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Cajigan, Lee stun seeded foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Chris Cajigan and Carol Lee upstaged their respective seeded opponents in the 2014 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships yesterday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria.

Lee's upset axe is still working, as she surprised second-ranked Caitlyn Portela in their second round match in the girls U12 singles, 6-1, 6-4. Lee, who stunned four seeded foes in New South Wales en route to a title win in the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup, met Portela for the second time and reasserted her might against the favored Australian. Portela was also seeded second in the tournament in NSW when she was eliminated by the CNMI junior player after

only two sets, 6-2, 6-0.

With her second win against Portela, Lee advanced to the quarterfinals against fellow Pacific Oceania ITF Touring Team player Naia Guitton of Tahiti. Guitton moved into the Round of 8 after ousting the No. 5 pick Amy Stevens, 6-1, 6-1. Other quarterfinalists at the bottom half of the 23-player field are No. 3 Hana Kim and No. 7 Mia Repac, who both lost to Lee in the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup. In the upper

See **CALIGAN** on **Page 30**

Dolphins sweep MISO caging opener



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Djay Ong pulls up for a jumper against Agape Christian School's Zhe Ming Lee, left, and Tao Yang during the first quarter of their junior varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School scored double victories in the opening day of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League.



The Dolphins crushed the Blazers of Eucon International School, 82-52, in the varsity division game last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium, while the former also prevailed in the junior varsity match

See **DOLPHINS** on **Page 30**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chris Cajigan, seen here going for a backhand slice in a local tournament at the Pacific Islands Club last year, won his first round match in the 2014 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships yesterday at the Wodonga Tennis Centre in Victoria.

## KFAS outlasts Tan Holdings FC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association on Saipan withstood Tan Holdings FC's second half rally to save a 4-3 win in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

KFAS held Tan Holdings scoreless in the last nine minutes of the match to preserve the victory. Tan Holdings FC failed to convert the needed one goal to extend the game despite having the momentum in the final half off Joe Miller's relentless attack.

Miller scored all of Tan Holdings FC's three goals with his first goal coming in at the 55th minute and moving the team

within one, 1-3. KFAS took a 3-0 halftime lead after drawing goals from three different players in the first half. Jun Woo Lee found the back of the net first for KFAS with his goal in the eighth minute, while the second was courtesy of Sang Ho Choi's shot in the 35th. Then just one minute before the first half wrapped up, Chang Koo Gil scored, too, to give KFAS more cushion.

Pressured to hit successive goals to catch up, Tan Holdings FC looked for its main man, Miller, and he responded to the challenge, earning another goal in the 64th minute. Miller's second came five minutes after KFAS

See **KFAS** on **Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Korean Football Association player, right, is seen here guarded by a Tan Holdings FC defender in a file photo taken in last year's M-League game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.